Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 86 | WEDNESDAY MAY 1, 2013 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

Esther Muña takes helm at hospital. PAGE 2
Lawmakers, Kilili to meet on 5-year transition extension. PAGE 3

RFPs for public land leases?

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands is planning a new strategy of issuing a request for proposals, or RFP, for available public lands suitable for investments, DPL deputy secretary Pete Itibus said yesterday. This will not only weed out fly-by-night investors holding up public lands that could have been developed by other investors, but also to get the best offer among competing and legitimate investors.

See RFP on Page 4

Capital Bowling Center closes, up for sale

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Capital Bowling Center in Garapan, one of the only two bowling centers in the CNMI, has closed down after some 16 years in operation and its Taiwanese owner is offering it to other interested investors.

Alan Abustan of Capital Bowling Center said yesterday that the owner, now in his old age, would like to retire and pass on the business to anyone interested. He said the "starting price is $700,000 and is negotiable."

The owner, Chan Te-Shen, also sold his Capital Hotel in Garapan near the bowling center, to another investor in July 2012, Abustan said.

See CAPITAL on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Capital Bowling Center in Garapan is now for sale after its original owner closed it last March 26.

Hospital looking for 13 more doctors

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Newly-installed Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. interim CEO Esther Muña disclosed yesterday that the Commonwealth Health Center needs 13 more physicians on top of the only 21 it has right now.

In announcing the need to find new doctors, Muña said she has empowered CHC physicians to help in the recruitment process and that negotiations with potential candidates will be more open.

Muña said the hospital cannot continue to operate with only two internal medicine doctors, for example, to run the busy inpatient ward.

The 13 needed doctors are for the following areas: four for internal medicine; two for pediatrics; two for obstetrics-gynecology; two for the emergency room; one for anesthesiology; one for orthopedic; and one for surgery.

Of the 21 doctors CHC has right now,

See HOSPITAL on Page 4

IN BLOOM

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Vehicles drive past bright red and orange flame trees by the Garapan Fishing Base yesterday morning. Flame trees have become an enduring CNMI landmark that one of the Marianas' biggest cultural events is timed around the same time these flowers are in their full glory.

STORY RETRACTION

The *Saipan Tribune* is retracting the story titled "Palms Resort to reopen as Sheraton" that was published in the April 30, 2013, edition of the newspaper. It was learned that E-Land Group's plans for its various properties in the CNMI have yet to be finalized at this point. Our apologies.

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397
235-2440
FAX: 235-3740
EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you support a proposal to suspend the 50-cent minimum wage increase that will take effect this September?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

The FDA is investigating the safety of foods boasting added caffeine.

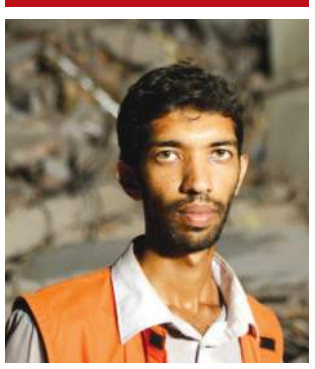
➤ PAGE 15

WORLD

Syria's prime minister escapes an assassination attempt.

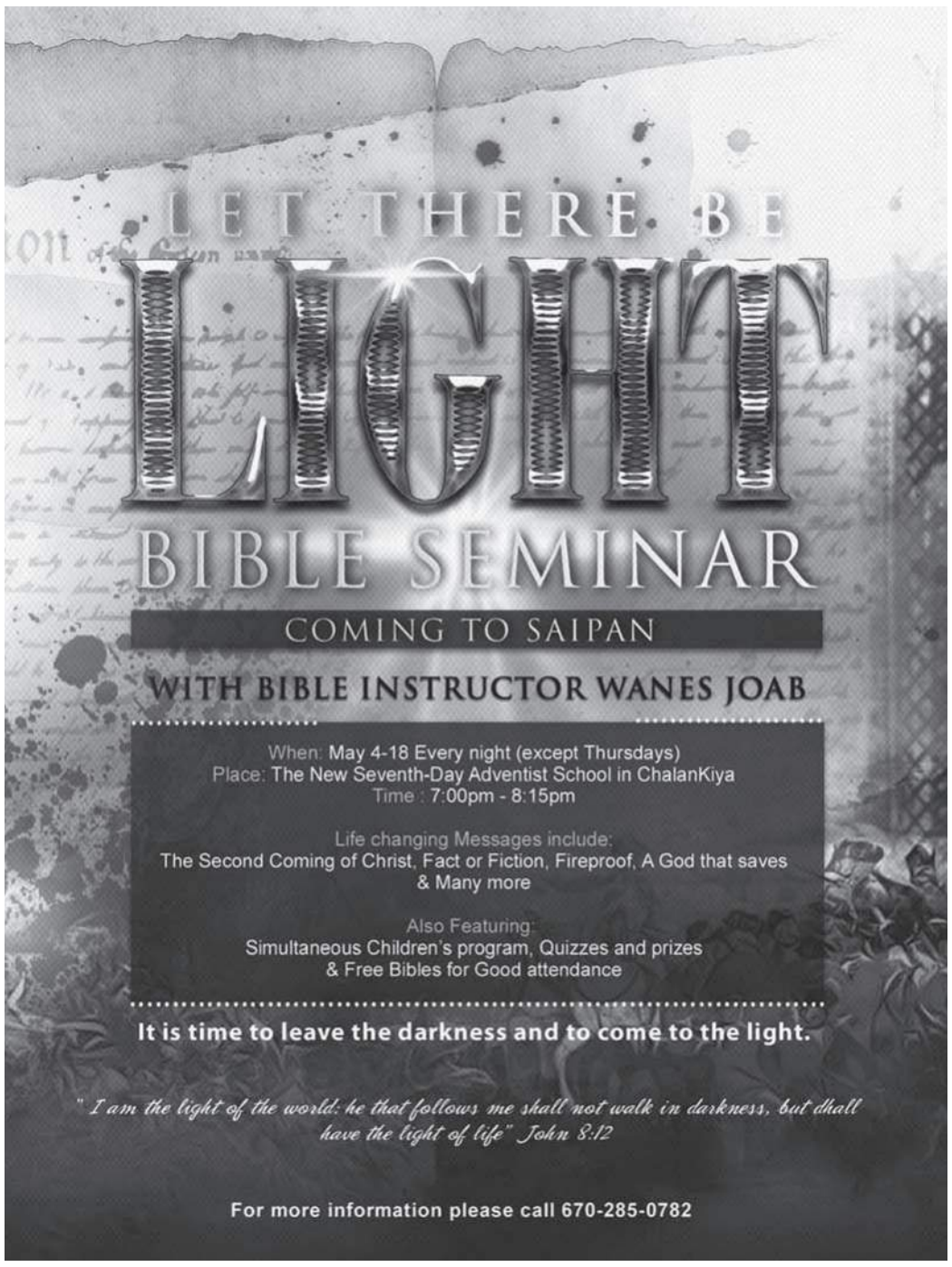
➤ PAGE 16

FOCUS



Surviving hell in the collapse of a Bangladesh factory.

➤ PAGE 17


LET THERE BE
LIGHT
BIBLE SEMINAR
COMING TO SAIPAN
WITH BIBLE INSTRUCTOR WANES JOAB
When: May 4-18 Every night (except Thursdays)
Place: The New Seventh-Day Adventist School in ChalanKiya
Time : 7:00pm - 8:15pm
Life changing Messages include:
The Second Coming of Christ, Fact or Fiction, Fireproof, A God that saves
& Many more
Also Featuring:
Simultaneous Children's program, Quizzes and prizes
& Free Bibles for Good attendance
It is time to leave the darkness and to come to the light.
" I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" John 8:12
For more information please call 670-285-0782

Local

Esther Muña takes helm at hospital

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Esther Muña officially took the helm of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday as the agency's interim chief executive officer.

Her first day saw her gracing the employees' assembly, sharing her immediate priorities, and appointing acting comptroller Cora Ada as interim chief financial officer to complete the composition of the corporation's governing body.

Ada, according to Muña, has a depth of experience, being the agency's chief accountant for many years.

With Muña on the governing body are Ada and director for Medical Affairs Dr. Sherleen Osman.

Muña also assured employees that she will keep the status quo for the workforce, with no layoffs, revamps, and termination in the coming days. She added, however, that a performance evaluation is forthcoming for all sections and departments.

In her first memorandum issued to employees yesterday, the new CEO emphasized the importance of each employee and the hospital's need to go forward.

"You are all an important part of this organization and at this time, we need to continue to do the important work that you do. In the next few days, I will be meeting with the corporate officers individually to discuss opportunities and to go over challenges we are facing. No major changes will be made until after my meeting with the officers, so please continue to do the work you're currently working on," Muna stated.

Ultimately, she said, the overall goals of the corporation are to retain its certification with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Service, improve patient experiences through enhanced patient care, and sustain healthcare in the CNMI by optimizing revenues and promoting good health.

Muña said that no austerity measures will also take effect soon. She blames the exodus of physicians, pharmacists, and nurses on cost-cutting measures such as cutting the housing allowance of off-island hires,

She said the corporation has to be cautious in implementing cost-cutting measures because these are what created the citations for CHC.

Muña also said that she will be reversing some policies created by her predecessor, including changing the organizational chart to resolve the "disconnect" in operation, a concern raised by Medicare in its survey visit. Among the areas to be cleared by these anticipated changes are the blame game, overlap, and disconnected links, especially among and between directors and managers.

As an example, Muña said that most directors have up to 20 responsibilities, compared to the usual seven to eight in a standard organization.

Although completing a strategic plan is on her plate, Muña admitted that this is not among her immediate priorities. She said the CMMS certification is the utmost priority and the corporation has only about 60 days to bring the agency to full compliance. For Muña, failure is not an option with regards to certification of the hospital.

New contract

Muña said she has yet to sign a new employment contract but that it is now in the works.

Like her predecessor, Juan N. Babauta, the board wants to pay Muña an annual compensation of $96,000 for her new post.

Saipan Tribune learned that no decision has been reached yet if interim CFO Ada will also be given a salary adjustment. The corporation will be recruiting a new CFO and CEO. The COO remains vacant for now and Muña will return to that post once a permanent CEO is found.

Muña, who believes she is qualified for the permanent CEO job, declined to say if she will apply for the position.

She added, though: "I am ready to make tough decisions for the hospital."

Muña has been in the public health sector for about 20 years.

+wide readership
+lengthy shelf life
+optimum distribution
+outstanding ad design and print quality
BASKETBALL TEAMS' NAMES: WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
TAGA SPORTS
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2011
LEINA KIM MAKES HER DAD PROUD
KELVIN 'THE BIG HIT' FITIAL TAKES STOCK
BRUCE BERLINE'S BALANCING ACT
THE STILL INCREDIBLE CECILIA
PLUS
POOL SAFETY
TAKE A HIKE
GOOD DART
PLUS BUY A BICYCLE, BIKE TO WORK, FAVORITE TRAILS
FREE
FUTURE FACES
TAGA Sports is now on issuu.com/tagasports!
Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA Sports, the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!
Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA Sports. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!
To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

Lawmakers, Kilili to meet on 5-year transition extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawmakers will meet today with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) on a request to extend the immigration federalization transition by five years or up to 2019, which is also the subject of a joint resolution that Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) introduced recently but has yet to be acted on by the full membership.

The transitional Commonwealth-only worker program expires on Dec. 31, 2014.

Without an extension of the transition to full federal immigration system, the CNMI could lose access to over 12,000 skilled and professional foreign workers, many of whom do not qualify for H visas.

Officials and businesses are one in saying that the CNMI's local labor pool is still not enough to fill the vacancies that will be left by foreign workers if the transition period ends next year.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said this joint meeting of the House and Senate with Sablan "is an opportunity for the members to ask the delegate about issues related to the transition extension."

"Personally I am supporting the extension. But like I said, this meeting is a courtesy extended by our delegate to answer questions members may have," he said.

Sablan, in a separate interview yesterday, said the speaker invited him to meet with the Legislature on the transition period extension.

"The U.S. Secretary of Labor is statutorily mandated to ascertain and anticipate the labor needs of the Northern Mariana Islands to determine whether to grant an extension of up to five years of the transition period," he said.

"To ensure that an adequate number of workers will be available for legitimate businesses here, and because I think that an extension is necessary, I have asked the U.S. Secretary of Labor to make that determination at the earliest possible date," he added.

Besides Sablan, Gov. Eloy S. Inos also wrote a separate letter to the U.S. Labor secretary, asking for a five-year extension of the transition period.

U.S. Labor Secretary Seth D. Harris has yet to decide on the request.

Conner, author of House Joint Resolution 18-5 that has yet to be adopted, said that extending the transition period will "prevent collapse of the CNMI economy." Conner is chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), a former CNMI immigration director, said yesterday he also supports a five-year extension because there are still not enough U.S. citizen workers to take over all the jobs currently held by foreign workers.

He, however, reiterated his recommendation that the federal government reserve certain job categories for U.S. citizen workers, especially the young ones. These are positions that can easily be filled by available U.S. citizen workers who do not have jobs.

"If we really want to start reducing our reliance on CW workers, we should also look into this," he said, adding that this can be done by also chang-

See EXTENSION on Next Page

DPA CAR MART
We're buying '97 & Up used cars!
Transaction only within 30 mins.

Call 287-8688 or visit
DPA CAR MART in San Antonio

MICRONESIA
RENT-A-CAR
MICRONESIA 24HRS RENT A CAR
Call 287-8484 レンタカー 租车
BEST PRICE ON ISLAND!
Come over and see our fine selection of cars!
FREE PICK UP SERVICE
Call: 287-8484
Location: Garapan, across American Memorial Park or between Daycare and Dental Clinic
Some conditions and restrictions apply

POON'S RESTAURANT
Chinese and Indonesian Food
Serving Saipan since 1983
Special Occasion Promo
(Wedding, Birthday, Christening, Graduation etc.)
$7.99 per person
Try our
All Day Specials
for only $4.50
with Rice, Soup and Iced Tea or Hot Tea
(Take-out order available)
Monday - Sunday
Lunch: 10:30am-2:00pm • Dinner: 5:30pm-10:00pm
Catering Now Available
Call 234-6907/989-1428

Competency hearing first for ex-DJ

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday ruled that a hearing should be done first whether former disc jockey Aziz Peter Mettao is competent to stand trial before holding a change of plea hearing.

Manglona denied the U.S. government's request to set for May 13 a change of plea hearing for Mettao, who is facing charges in federal court for setting fire to a car owned by Power 99 Studio.

Although it appears that the parties no longer dispute Mettao's competency, Manglona said that the court must hold a competency hearing first before a change of plea is taken.

Manglona said the court must make an independent determination regarding Mettao's competency by a preponderance of evidence.

For this reason, the judge said, the prosecution's motion to set for a change of plea hearing "is premature and is denied without prejudice."

Manglona said the competency hearing currently set for June 19 will be held earlier on May 31, 2013 at 1:30pm.

"If it is determined that defendant is now competent, the change of plea may proceed forthwith," she said.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami S. Badawy informed the court on Friday that Mettao has signed a plea agreement and that the deal has already been filed in court. Badawy asked the court to set the change of plea hearing for May 13.

Last October, the court granted a motion to order a psychiatric exam on Mettao to determine if he is competent to stand trial.

In December 2012, the 27-year-old Mettao was reportedly admitted to the Federal Detention Center in Washington for a competency evaluation.

Mettao allegedly used beer bottles that he filled with flammable liquid to burn Power 99's vehicle that was parked near the radio station in western Garapan in the early morning of Sept. 10, 2012.

Camera records burglar at Docomo

A surveillance camera caught in the act a man breaking into Docomo's office on Middle Road last week and stealing several items valued at over $4,000.

» Suspect injured during burglary

Police officer Jason Tarkong said the video shows that the suspect stayed for about seven minutes inside the Docomo office on the second floor of the H.S. Lee Building north of Payless Shoe Source along Middle Road.

Tarkong said the suspect cut or injured himself from broken glass as there were bloodstains at the scene.

The suspect was described as possibly a local male, about 5'4" tall, 140 to 160 lbs, in his late teens or early 20s, has dark short hair, a moustache, and goatee.

He was wearing a baseball cap that was reversed, sleeveless dark colored shirt, light colored pants, and slippers.

The stolen items were a black Samsung X-Cover cell phone, and three laptops: a black/silver Toshiba Satellite Pro, a black Lenovo T150, and a gray HP Pro book.

To provide information about the burglary, contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 or visit the website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

We are inviting you to the
2013 SAN JOSE FIESTA
"MAYOR'S CHARITY"
Tinian Dynasty Casino
WELCOME
TINIAN DYNASTY HOTEL & CASINO
Texas Hold 'Em
POKER
Tournament
with LIVE GAMES on FRIDAY & SATURDAY
MAY 3, 2013 (Friday)
7:30pm onwards
Registration opens on April 24, 2013
Entry Fee: $300 + $20 for Mayor's Charity + $10 commission
For further information please contact VIP Services
Tel: (670) 328-2285 • Fax: (670) 328-1186 • Email: tinian.dynasty@pticom.com

DESPITE PROMISING REVENUE FROM MILITARY

Impact on Tinian airport operation a major concern

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority may be earning a tidy sum from the trainings the U.S. military is doing on Tinian but this is not enough to dampen worries the agency has with how this will affect commercial flights on the island.

Executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the agency and the Federal Aviation Administration remain deeply concerned about the possible interference these trainings would have with the commercial operation of the airport.

"Regardless of what kind of training the military wants on Tinian, FAA wants to make sure that it does not interfere with commercial operation of the airport. That's our major concern," he said, adding that the federal agency clearly conveyed this when it recently met with lawmakers on the island.

Deleon Guerrero said there's no assurance at this time that U.S. military trainings will not have any grave impact on the airport's operation.

Saipan Tribune learned that CPA has been generating money from the U.S. military since trainings started on Tinian last year, whenever CPA personnel, equipment, facility, and assistance are requested. CPA refused to disclose the amount but hinted that assessed charges are similar to other users.

Deleon Guerrero revealed that CPA is keeping a logging record to monitor the volume of airplane landing at its airport on Tinian. CPA, he said, wants to make sure that there will be co-sharing between parties when the airport needs some resurfacing.

"Yes, CPA is making some money since training started on Tinian. But we have agreement with them [military] that if it damaged the airport, they will fix it."

The U.S. military plans to establish a series of live-fire and maneuver ranges and training areas on Tinian and Pagan, to address insufficient training facilities in the Western Pacific, particularly in the CNMI.

DPS to host jailhouse fundraiser Friday

The Department of Public Safety is inviting the public to participate in its Jailhouse Lock-Down Fundraiser on Friday, May 3, 2013, as part of its Annual Law Enforcement Week activities.

The Jailhouse Lock-Down will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, according to the 2013 Police Week Committee.

This event involves people visiting our facility or calling our hotline and posting a bounty on any of their friends or relatives whom they wish to have arrested. A fictitious arrest warrant will then be issued by the Committee Judge and bail will be set in the amount the judge finds suitable to fit the charges. After that, the officers will then head out and arrest the suspect on the warrant, bring them back to the jailhouse and lock him/her up.

The arrestee will then be brought before the judge who will then set bail or issue a "special court order" (i.e. for arrestee to either sing or dance or perform any other activity to have his/her bail lowered). Or the person could just post the required bail amount and be released.

RULES: Minimum bounty for an arrest to take effect is $25. For bounties that reach or exceed $100, the arrestee must either "match" the amount or perform the activity ordered by the judge in order to get released.

Arrestees will be treated to a special island meal (free of charge) that will be provided by the committee. Door prizes such as the "most consecutively arrested person" and "highest bounty" will be given out at the site.

For any questions / inquiries contact officers Flora at 285-1108, Catherine at 285-9611, or Israel at 287-9615. ***(DPS)***

Extension request OK'd for firm building a warehouse in Sususpe

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board recently approved a request to extend for another year the conditional use permit issued to MEC, LLC.

The company was issued on Oct. 6, 2011, a conditional use permit to build a warehouse on a lot in Tokcha Ave. in Susupe.

The 11,900-square-foot warehouse will be used for the wholesale operations of Western Sales Trading Co., which distributes cigarettes, beer, and animal feeds.

MEC, LLC's Christopher A. Torres wrote to the Zoning Board on March 27 to ask for an extension on the permit, which expired 12 months after the date of issue, due to lack of physical improvements made in the area.

Torres said in his letter that engineer Juan C. Tenorio, owner of JC Tenorio Engineers & Associates Inc., which was contracted to draw the building plans, was hospitalized for emergency surgery.

Tenorio was also advised by his attending physician to go through a lengthy therapy session, causing over a year and a half of hiatus for the warehouse plans to be drawn and submitted to the steel prefabrication factory in the mainland, he added.

Torres corroborated his request with a letter from the U.S. Navy Medical Center in Guam, which detailed Tenorio's ordeal.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro informed the board during its April 18 meeting that an inspection on the proposed warehouse site revealed that the site remains untouched. Still, Ogumoro recommended the extension request.

"It is their option to retain their engineer," Ogumoro told the board.

Except for treasurer Alice S. Igitol, the rest of the board unanimously approved the request.

Landfill equipment rental contract extended

Department of Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan extended for another 15 days—from today to May 15—its Marpi landfill equipment rental contract with SARS/Success International Corp. while waiting for a decision on a procurement protest.

"Hopefully before the 15th of the month, there's already a decision on who to give the contract to for the Marpi landfill operation. We are optimistic about that," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune.*

DPW's one-month landfill equipment rental contract of $35,000 with SARS/Success International expired yesterday.

The department started renting equipment for the Marpi landfill operations since September 2012 when its long-term contractor decided not to renew its contract.

DPW worked on a request for proposals for the landfill's operations for at least three years with an option for extension. Five companies responded to the RFP and the department later asked two top bidders—Tang's Corp. and SARS/Success International—for their best and final offer.

A review committee selected Tang's Corp.'s proposal. SARS/Success International protested with the Procurement and Supply Division. The latter has yet to decide on the protest. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

RFP

From Page 1

DPL has seen anywhere between $30 million and $1 billion in proposed hotel resort development on public lands, only for the plans to fizzle out when investors fail to secure financing, fail to pay their land leases to the department and then abandon the whole project.

"DPL is planning to issue out RFPs for public lands that are suitable for commerce to get the best offer, the best proposal. I believe this will be the first time that DPL will be taking this route of issuing RFPs," Itibus told *Saipan Tribune.*

The Inos administration supports DPL's plan.

"Properties are resources. The more we can realize from such resources, the better for the Commonwealth," press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos recently appointed his senior policy adviser, Pete A. Tenorio, to serve as DPL secretary. The Senate has yet to confirm Tenorio's nomination.

Itibus said that DPL is now working on the scope of work of an RFP.

He said among these public lands available for lease is a more than 5-hectare property in San Antonio.

DPL leased the 5-hectare property to KSA Corp. to build a hotel with villas and condotels. The project didn't materialize, resulting in DPL terminating the lease with KSA Corp. in June 2008.

Later, DPL terminated a temporary authorization it gave Pacific Investment and Development Corp., previously Kevin International Corp., for the same San Antonio property due to a lack of development on its plan. PIDC had plans to build a $30-million, 300-room condominium-hotel resort on the property.

Itibus said DPL has other public lands suitable for investments such as those in the northern part of Saipan.

DPL and the Legislature approved a lease to Flame Sako, which had planned to build a $60 million to $80 million hotel on 109,003 square meters of land in Marpi north of the former Palms Resort. Flame Sako abandoned the lease. At least three other investors later expressed interest in the same property, only to also abandon that plan.

The most ambitious plan yet that also fizzled out—more than once—was that of Neo Gold Wings and Paradise. The company had announced a $1.6 billion to $3 billion project that included a "six-star" casino hotel and resort, a theme park, and a 36-hole golf course on Tinian.

In the 17th Legislature, then Senate President Paul Manglona authored a bill requiring DPL to publish an RFP to lease public lands at least a year before the expiration of an existing lease requiring legislative approval. He said that by doing this, DPL will be able to obtain the best offer available for such properties. The 17th Senate passed the bill but the House did not act on it.

Any lease of public land consisting of more than 5 hectares requires legislative approval.

HOSPITAL

From Page 1

two are at the Rota Health Center while the rest are stationed at the Commonwealth Health Center.

The Tinian clinic remains without a physician but Muña said the potential transfer of one doctor from Rota to Tinian will be brought to the negotiation table once more.

Muña said they also have two short-term-hire physicians, usually called locums—one from Hawaii and one from Guam—who travel back and forth here whenever they are available.

The corporation was recently recertified by the National Health Service Corps, which helps bring qualified health care providers to areas of the United States with limited access to care

With this approval, eligible clinicians can apply with the NHSC Loan Repayment Program and the corporation can recruit NHSC scholars.

Muña disclosed that Dr. Daniel Lamar, director for Medical Affairs in the Public Health Division, is currently working on posting vacant doctors' positions to encourage NHSC scholars to come to the CNMI.

For Muna, the re-certification is a big thing for the corporation and the CNMI as "it not only allows us to retain our current NHSC clinicians, it allows us to recruit additional ones. And for our sons and daughters who become an NHSC-eligible health care professional, CHCC becomes a great option for employment because they can have a huge portion of their educational loan paid by NHSC," she earlier told *Saipan Tribune.*

Muña is set to meet with the corporation's recruitment and retention committee today to further discuss the manpower needs of the hospital. The agency, she said, is also using HeadHunters to find qualified candidates.

CAPITAL

From Page 1

"Our last day of operation was on March 26. We opened in 1997," he added.

The slow economy was also a factor. However, the tourism-based economy has started picking up in recent period so Capital Bowling Center is optimistic that other investors will see the potential of this sports center.

Capital Bowling Center, across the Garapan Elementary School, hosted countless number of bowling tournaments in its 16 years of operation.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) said he's surprised to hear that Capital Bowling Center has closed but at the same time pleased to know that Capital Hill has been sold "and that's good news because at least we know it's staying in business."

"With the information available, I hope it will be an attractive investment option for those who might be interested in investing in business of this size," Sablan said.

EXTENSION

From Page 3

ing the federal process of accepting CW permit applications.

He said if U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, for example, reserves certain job categories such as cashiers, waiters/waitresses, janitors, gas attendants and the like for available U.S. citizen workers, then this will really be in line with the goal of reducing reliance on foreign workers.

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

Kevin's Mart FOOD STAMP SALE!

TELEPHONE NO. 234- 8866

LOWEST PRICE IN CNMI!

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP

AMERICAN EXPRESS VISA MasterCard WE ACCEPT MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • 6:00am-11:00pm

➤ Buy up to $25 worth of items and get FREE 2 pcs Empanada or 2 pcs Donuts
➤ Shop $100 worth or more and get a FREE lunch set at Kevin's Café
➤ VIP Card now available – Earn points and wind Prices

Diamond G Rice $9.98 15 LBS. $26.98 50 LBS. Limit 1

Pigeon 100% Jasmine Rice $6.98 10 LBS. $13.98 20 LBS. $27.98 50 LBS.

Chicken Leg Quarter $18.98 22 LBS. $26.98 33 LBS.

Whole Chicken $39.98 30 LBS.

Baby Ribs $21.48 /CASE

Spareribs $20.98 20 LBS.

Gusto Chopped Ham $16.98 10 LBS.

Ground Beef $11.98 5 LBS.

King Choice Vegetable Oil 2L. $4.98

Rice Stick $1.98 16OZ.

U.S. Eggs XLarge $2.28 /DOZ.

Coffee Mix Mocha Gold $13.98 100 COUNTS

Crisco Shortening Butter & Vegetable $5.98

King Chef Soy Bean Oil $32.98 5 GALLON

Vega Shrimp $5.78 LIMIT 6

Nestle Cream $1.98 300 GRAMS

Milk Fish $1.38 /LB.

Tilapia $1.08 /LB.

Greenshell Mussels $5.98

Seawave Calamari $1.98

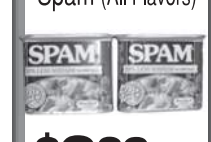
Raw White Shrimp $15.98 2 LBS.

| GROCERIES • PRODUCE • FROZEN FODD • GROCERIES • PRODUCE • FROZEN FODD |

Bacon $3.28 /PKG

Bar S Jumbo Franks $1.18 /PKG

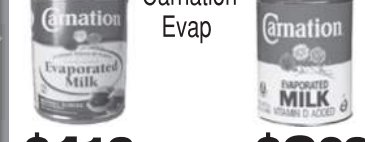
Spam (All Flavors) $2.38 LIMIT 6



Ox & Palm Corned Beef $3.68 LIMIT 6

Black Label $1.78 LIMIT 6

Carnation Evap $1.18 U.S. $0.98 PHIL.



Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn $0.98 306G

Morton Salt $0.98

Kimchi Base $5.98 450G

Folgers Coffee $11.98 36OZ.

Argo Corn Starch $0.98

Golden State Vinegar $3.98 1GAL

Ichiban $10.88 /BOX

Potato $0.78 /LB.

Onion $0.78 /LB.

Saipan Ice Water 350ML $5.98 CASE

| BEVERAGES |

Pepsi WARM only $12.98 CASE

San Miguel in Can $22.98 CASE

Milwaukee Beer in Can $17.99 CASE

| NON-FOOD • NON-FOOD • NON-FOOD • NON-FOOD • NON-FOOD • NON-FOOD • NON-FOOD |

Colgate Regular $1.68 100ml $2.58 150ml

Palmolive Shampoo & Conditioner $1.78 EACH

Gain Liquid $6.98 50 OZ.

Surf Detergent (Aloha Splash / Sparkling Ocean) $4.98 32 LOADS

Purex $4.98

Hite Beer Bottle $18.95 CASE

Tide Laundry Soap Powder $0.98 508 G. $1.98 1.36 KG. $3.98 2.28 KG.

Joy Dish. $6.98 90 OZ.

Clorox $3.98 99 oz.

Bounty Paper Towel 5 Rolls $18.98

Diamond Foil $7.98 200 sq.ft.

Stone Barn Wine $7.50 Bottle

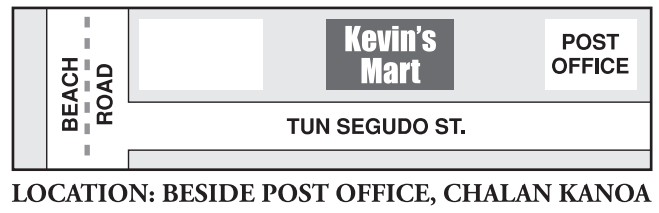
EVERYDAY LOW PRICE • FRESH LOCAL VEGETABLES & LOCAL FRUITS AVAILABLE

FURNINURES	TOYS	HOUSE ITEMS	CURTAIN & FABRICS	SOFA SETS UPHOLSTERY
15%-30% OFF	30%-75% OFF	15%-30% OFF	10%-15% OFF	Special Price as low as $398 labor & materials

KEVIN'S CAFE

Monday - Saturday 6am - 8pm • Sunday 10am - 8pm

[*Special Lunch* $4.95 3 Choices]



LOCATION: BESIDE POST OFFICE, CHALAN KANOA

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Partners in Education

The Saipan Tribune would like to acknowledge these fine sponsors who are committed to education in the CNMI. Thank you all for ensuring that our children receive the worlds most up to date textbook: the newspaper.

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Mobil®
- Eucon International School
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Kagman Elementary School
- Marianas Baptist Academy
- Marianas High School
- Mt. Carmel School
- Saipan Community School
- Saipan International School
- San Antonio Elementary School
- Tanapag Elementary School

Tan Siu Lin Foundation
- Dan Dan Elementary School
- Garapan Elementary School
- Grace Christian Academy
- G.T. Camacho Elementary School
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Kagman High School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Saipan International School
- Tanapag Elementary School
- WSR Elementary School

SILVER SPONSORS

Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center
- Cha Cha Junior High School
- Kagman High School
- Marianas High School
- Saipan Southern High School

IT&E Life in Motion
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Kagman High School
- Marianas High School
- Saipan Southern High

TakeCare®
- Grace Christian Academy
- Mt. Carmel School
- San Antonio Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic
- Cha Cha Junior High School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Saipan SDA School
- WSR Elementary School

BRONZE SPONSORS

Bridge Capital, LLC
- Garapan Elementary School
- Grace Christian Academy

CIC Century Insurance
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Marianas High School

COSMOS Distributing Co., Ltd
- Garapan Elementary School
- Marianas High School

D&Q International Distributors
- Tanapag Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

POI Aviation
- Dan Dan Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

Richard & Marian Aldan Pierce
- Kagman Elementary School
- WSR Elementary School

Shirley's Coffee Shop
- Oleai Elementary School
- San Antonio Elementary School

KeyNotes School of Music
- Green Meadow School
- Green Meadow Pre-school

If your company wants to participate in our program,
please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171 or e-mail celia_pillarina@saipantribune.com

No jury trial for suspect in fruit bat case

A man accused of possession of two federally protected Mariana fruit bats or *fanihi* has been found not entitled to a jury trial.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said the offenses with which Pedro Mendiola is charged are not felonies as defined by statute since the possible maximum sentence he can receive per count is six months' imprisonment.

The judge granted the Office of the Attorney General's motion to schedule a bench trial instead of a jury trial.

The bench trial will be at the Tinian Superior Court on May 13, 2013 at 9am.

The OAG charged Mendiola with two counts of possession of an endangered species, which carries a maximum sentence of six months' imprisonment and a $5,000 fine.

Wiseman said the statute defines a felony as "any offense or conduct…punishable by more than one year confinement."

Wiseman said the statute provides that defendants charged with a felony "punishable by more than five years imprisonment or by more than $2,000 fine" have a right to a jury trial.

In the government's motion for a bench trial, the OAG argued that Mendiola does not have a right to a jury trial because the offenses charged are not felonies. Mendiola did not oppose the motion.

According to court records, Mendiola allegedly delivered two live fruit bats to a residence in San Jose, Tinian, in exchange for a live goat on June 9, 2012. A worker at the house allegedly received the fruit bats. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

KES' Arda is PSS maintenance of the year

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, left, names Koblerville Elementary School's Norman Arda, second left, as the statewide Maintenance of the Year awardee during last week's awarding rites. Also in photo are Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, right, and Koblerville school principal Rizalina Purugganan.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A long-time employee of the Koblerville Elementary School has been presented with the Public School System's Maintenance of the Year award.

Norman Arda bested 18 nominees from other public schools in the Commonwealth and was recognized by PSS and the Board of Education officials during the Administrative Professional Day celebration last week.

Arda has been with the Koblerville school for seven years now. Since last year, he has been the school's sole maintenance and trade worker. The Koblerville school is home to 426 students and 34 employees.

According to Arda, every person must take accountability and responsibility for his or her job, whatever it may be. There are no small or big jobs in a school setting, he added.

"I have been a school maintenance at Koblerville Elementary School for more than seven years now and can proudly say that I take my job seriously and with passion," he said.

Throughout his seven years at the school, Arda has been nominated as Maintenance of the Year and Support Staff of the Year for two consecutive years. He said used these nominations and recognition to push himself to better serve students.

Despite the budget constraints facing public schools, Arda says he stays focused and finds ways to serve even with minimal supplies, tools, and available materials.

"Like many teachers at Koblerville Elementary School, I find myself using my own money to donate simple operational materials needed, such as gas for the school truck and riding mower, to aid in the everyday operation of the school. It is small, selfless acts that prove we are truly here for the students and not just for the job. I only have positive and high hopes for our system. We should all work together to make sure that our children, who are our future leaders, will gain an effective and quality education," he said.

Koblerville Elementary School principal Rizalina Purugganan describes Arda as the school's "jack of all trades."

"I am very happy for Mr. Norman Arda to be chosen as the overall CNMI PSS Maintenance of the Year. Mr. Arda is the only person who maintains our big campus. He is diligent and very cooperative. In behalf of Koblerville Elementary School, we would like to congratulate him. We are very proud of him!" Purungganan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Manglona takes helm at Aging Center; vows 'utmost respect' for *man'amko*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The acting director for Office of Aging promised his full commitment to ensure that the elderly in the CNMI are given "utmost respect" and provided the services they deserve, as provided in the State Plan on Aging.

Walter Manglona said yesterday that he is "truly humbled" to be given the opportunity to serve the *man'amko* in his new role.

Manglona was appointed in an acting capacity last Friday by acting Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Laura T. Ogumoro. He replaces Rose Mondala, who was removed from her post at the request of seniors at the center.

In an email response, Manglona said he is familiar with the operations of the Office on Aging, having worked there for 11 years. He also worked with the previous director in preparing the state plan, among other things.

"We have a big task in front of us in turning this program around and ensuring that no abuses in funding are made and that everything is justified and we are always in compliance with any and all regulations," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Manglona noted his plan to reverse "public perception" of the *man'amko* at the Aging Center.

"The center is really a friendly and relaxing environment where senior citizens can socialize and engage in the many activities and services provided," he said. "We always welcome new and interested senior citizens to visit the center to see what we have to offer."

Manglona is also looking at making some improvements at the center such as developing healthier breakfast and lunch menus.

Manglona

"I feel that the clients should always be able to voice their concerns and would appreciate their input in choosing what kind of food they would like to eat, at the same time finding a balance to ensure that the food we serve meets nutritional guidelines," he explained.

Manglona said he plans to produce a documentary on culture and the way of life of the elderly during the war.

He also wants to introduce new activities like gardening for the seniors. At present, the center offers not only bingo but recreational pastimes to keep the clients healthy and active like bowling, dance class, drama club, music class, billiards, tai chi, computer class, ground golf, softball, and basketball.

"I would like to see our clients start a garden and tend to their crops that can also be used to prepare their foods. Gardening can be very relaxing and is a good pastime for senior citizens," he added.

Manglona thanked Ogumoro for entrusting him with the program and operations at the center and expressed confidence that Aging personnel will turn things around at the center and provide clients with proper and adequate services.

He also acknowledged the *man'amko*, for whom he has developed profound appreciation, respect, and love.

"I tirelessly devote myself to them in ensuring that they receive only the best services and that they enjoy every minute they spend at the center. I will give them my time and attention and let them know that my office is always open for them. Their voices will matter and will be heard at the Office on Aging," said Manglona.

F. Marie Calvo Monge named the 2013 Businesswoman of the Year

TAMUNING, Guam—F. Marie Calvo Monge, chief operating officer and executive producer, Pacific Telestations Inc., was named the 2013 First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business Magazine Businesswoman of the Year at the 8th Annual Maga'haga Award Gala on April 27.

Monge

Through her work at KUAM, Monge has played a significant role in maintaining a connection with Guam's community and the network of Guamanians all over the world. She is dedicated to keeping up with changes and demands in industry technology and she maintains KUAM's influence in a competitive marketplace.

In 2001, Monge co-founded the KUAM Careforce, a community service initiative organization of the stations of KUAM. Through the Careforce, Monge has created public service media campaigns showcasing local organizations and building awareness for issues of importance to the community.

Colleagues describe her as brilliant in business, unsurpassed in creativity, committed to her community and a wonderful wife and mother.

Monge is married to Eli Monge and has two daughters, Noelle Veronica, 14; and Reese Frances, 11.

Monge was selected from nine nominees in this year's annual award program, which recognizes businesswomen who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community. She is featured in a commissioned photo study on the cover of *Guam Business Magazine* May-June issue, which was released at the gala.

The other eight nominees were J. Victoria "Vicky" Benavente, executive assistant, Pacific Islands Club Saipan; Loisa Cabuhat, realtor, Coral Sea Realty; Dr. Annette David, director, consulting services, Health Partners LLC; Annie G. Hayes, assistant general manager, Herman's Modern Bakery; Lisa Lenckowski, marketing manager, Outrigger Guam Resort; Geraldine "Geri" Leon Guerrero, general manager, Adztech & Public Relations; Beatrice P. "Tricee" Limtiaco, president, Perez Bros. Inc.; and Cecilia T. Y. "Nancy" Robato, principal Broker, Pacific Pearl Properties.

This year's judges were Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, senior vice president, Guam and NMI region manager, First Hawaiian Bank; Maureen N. Maratita, publisher, *Guam Business Magazine*; Mary P. Rhodes, 2012 Businesswoman of the Year, president of the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and president of MARQ Consulting Services; Joyce Quinata Crisostomo, 2011 Businesswoman of the Year, executive director of Cars Plus and president of Payless Car Rental; Anna Wang Kao, 2010 Businesswoman of the Year, founder and president of Genghis Khan Furniture Co.; Lorraine S. Okada, 2009 Businesswoman of the Year, former executive manager of Carlsmith Ball LLP, and president and owner of Managing Consulting Services; Julienne Rose Perez Duenas, 2008 Businesswoman of the Year, physical therapist, owner and clinical director of Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation Inc.; Christine Won Pat Baleto, 2007 Businesswoman of the Year, general manager of Market Wholesale Distributors; and Katherine Calvo Sgro, 2006 Businesswoman of the Year, executive vice president and chairwoman of the board of Pay-Less Markets Inc.

Several hundred attended the event. Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships at the University of Guam, Guam Community College and Northern Marianas College. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Division of Public Health Services

WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines 2013-2014

On March 29, 2013, a Notice announcing the revised WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines was published in the Federal Register. The adjusted income eligibility guidelines are used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the WIC Program. **The CNMI WIC Program will be implementing the new guidelines effective May 1, 2013.** So please check to see if you now qualify.

To be eligible on the basis of income, applicants' gross income (i.e. before taxes are withheld) must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines (see below).

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines
(Effective from May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014)

48 Contiguous States, D.C., Guam and Territories					
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	$21,257	$1,772	$886	$818	$409
2	28,694	2,392	1,196	1,104	552
3	36,131	3,011	1,506	1,390	695
4	43,568	3,631	1,816	1,676	838
5	51,005	4,251	2,126	1,962	981
6	58,442	4,871	2,436	2,248	1,124
7	65,879	5,490	2,745	2,534	1,267
8	73,316	6,110	3,055	2,820	1,410
Each Add'l Member Add	+$7,437	+$620	+$310	+$287	+$144

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program), or Medicaid automatically meet the income eligibility requirement. For more information please call the WIC Clinic at 664-4084.

"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

"Healthy Families for a Lifetime."

P.O. Box 502509 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 664-4067 • Fax: (670) 664-4069

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-018

RENEWABLE ENERGY INTEGRATION STUDY

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for a Renewable Energy Integration Study for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The focus of this Renewable Energy Integration Study will be:

- To determine how much variable renewable energy (Solar PV and Wind) can CUC economically integrate into its grid?
- To investigate the operational impact - at penetration levels ranging from 10% to 50% - for Solar PV and Wind generation.

A Power System Analysis software with a Renewable Energy module will be purchased and installed on CUC computers for grid studies and operations. The contractor will recommend and install the software on computers provided by CUC. The contractor will model CUC's grid and carry out related Load-flow, Short Circuit, Stability (dynamic and transient), Transient and Protection analysis, as well as simulations.

The study should address these questions:

1. What is the impact of up to 50% variable renewable energy penetration and how can this be accommodated?
2. How much Solar PV or Wind generation can be connected on any of CUC's 13.8KV distribution feeders? Can geographic diversity or distributed generation will help mitigate variability?
3. How spinning reserve should be modified to account for the variability in Wind and Solar PV generation. What is the additional cost of spinning due to this variability?
4. What is the increased O&M cost of diesel generators due to increased ramping and cycling?
5. What are the Short Circuit levels and currents at interconnection points on the grid?
6. What are the supply quality problems; including voltage stability /collapse and frequency fluctuations?

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on April 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-018,Renewable Energy Integration Study"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 20, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than May 10, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-020

DESIGN-BUILD RENOVATION OF CUC WAREHOUSE OFFICE AND STORAGE FACILITY

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Design-Build Renovation of CUC Warehouse Office and Storage Facility of the Commonwealth Utilities, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The selected A&E and Construction firm shall perform design and construction services for the renovation of the CUC Warehouse in Lower Base, Saipan. The firm must have experience on past design-build projects particularly on the island of Saipan.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **May 9, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-020, Design-Build Renovation of CUC Warehouse Office and Storage Facility, Saipan"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 28, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated, pre-qualified and selected based on the following criteria:

1. Familiarity and understanding of the CUC Warehouse staff daily activities
2. Qualifications and Experience of the A&E and the Contractor
   - o Proposed Methodology and Project Approach with Milestone Schedule
   - o Proposed Staffing and Experience
   - o List and Performance Recommendation on similar contracts, including the timeliness of the firms in meeting contract deadlines
   - o Present Workload and Availability

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This Request for Proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations ss 50-50-301 & 305, Procurement of Construction and Architect-Engineering Services.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org. with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Warehouse Manager, via email john.mafnas@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Adopt-a-Place joins up with DPW's Adopt-a-Highway

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 12th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council has decided to link its Adopt-a-Place Roadside Program to the Department of Public Works' Adopt-a-Highway Program.

Beginning May 6, DPW will take over the responsibilities of and exercise jurisdiction over the Adopt-a-Place program, which brings together private companies and other community groups by allowing them to maintain designated public places while instilling a sense of ownership and care among participants.

Municipal council chair Ramon B. Camacho, along with representatives of volunteer groups under the Adopt-a-Place program, met with DPW officials on April 24 to discuss the program's transition.

Camacho thanked the volunteers and sponsors of the Adopt-a-Place program for their participation, time, effort, and other valuable contributions to make the community-based roadside program a success.

As of yesterday, the Adopt-a-Place program has 38 groups that volunteer to take charge in the upkeep of different parts of the island.

In an interview, however, Camacho expressed disappointment that DPW decided to call the combined programs Adopt-a-Highway, which he said requires the maintenance of a mile-long highway as opposed to the Adopt-a-Place program, which covers a more manageable area for volunteers.

Camacho disclosed that the decision to combine the council's program with that of DPW is because the latter was awarded a grant to purchase the signs for Adopt-a-Highway.

Some of the Adopt-a-Place volunteers, he said, are "not too happy" that the Adopt-a-Highway has taken over the council's program. Still, Camacho said, he did not discourage them to stop supporting this worthwhile project.

While the Adopt-a-Place will no longer be the council's responsibility, Camacho emphasized that they will continue similar efforts through "inner village stewardship, neighborhood revitalization, and environmental enhancement."

Camacho said anybody is welcome to form a group and join the movement to liven up their respective villages to enhance the island as a destination and also help curb crime in the community.

"We need to work together as a community," he added.

For more information, call 664-2700.

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 1, 2004

New fuel firm being eyed as CNMI investor
With gas prices rising on the islands, local leaders are working on enticing new players to enhance business competition in the fuel industry. House Commerce and Tourism chairman Ray Yumul said Thursday that he is planning to communicate with SK Corp., reportedly the sixth largest fuel company in Korea, to entice the company to invest in the CNMI. Yumul said a lawmaker whom he did not identify first floated the idea during the previous Legislature. He said he is currently gathering more information on this. He also disclosed that a draft divorcement measure has already been completed. Although he has yet to introduce the bill before the House, Yumul said the measure would prohibit fuel suppliers from engaging in local retail.

New funds needed for education initiative
Gov. Juan N. Babauta asked the Legislature Thursday to appropriate funds for his education initiative, noting the program lacks money for another round of grants. "There is no more funding for the Governor's Education Initiative unless the Legislature passes the 2005 budget," he said in his annual State of the Commonwealth address. He said the Legislature could even name it the Legislature's Education Initiative "if the Legislature will appropriate the money we need." The Governor's Office spent nearly $1 million to carry out several programs under its education initiative beginning this school year.

May 1, 2005

Senators push for $20M home, business loans
Senators are calling for a constitutional amendment to authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust to make available $10 million for home loans and another $10 million for business loans for indigenous individuals. Authored by Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo, Senate Legislative Initiative 14-10 mandates that the funds be given to the Marianas Public Lands Authority specifically for the two loan programs. The initiative is endorsed by Standing Committee Report 14-10, which was signed by eight of the nine senators: Joseph Mendiola, Paterno Hocog, Diego Songao, Paul Manglona, Henry San Nicolas, Pete P. Reyes, Thomas Villagomez, and Crisostimo.

PSS to study feasibility of La Fiesta high school
The decision of the Board of Education to approve the Office of the Governor's proposal to use a portion of the La Fiesta Mall as a new junior and senior high school in the CNMI is stalled for the moment. The board voted last week during a special meeting at the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning Center at the Marianas High School that they will need three months to study and look at the feasibility of establishing a new school on Saipan. In line with this, the board instructed Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos to spearhead the feasibility study. Inos said she would assign appropriate staff to assist her on this matter as soon as possible.

May 1, 2006

Govt won't renew TWAs
The Fitial administration will deport or repatriate guest workers who hold temporary work authorizations as part of efforts to stop the widespread illegal employment in the CNMI. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial described this group of workers as "legitimate illegal workers." He said he does not have the exact number of these illegal workers but said there are more than 3,000 people with TWAs. "There [are] more than 3,000 [of them]. Those are the legitimate illegals," said Fitial during a news briefing Friday. "We are going to stop these illegal activities." While not exactly ruling out legitimate labor cases, Fitial said there have been TWA "abuses" such as filing of "spurious" complaints, which include grounds like "I don't like my supervisor."

Shoe investors waiting for Headnote change
Foreign investors wanting to set up shoe factories on Saipan remain interested but they are waiting for the U.S. Congress to amend Headnote3(a) of the Harmonized Tariff Code, according to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. "They are waiting for the 70-30 amendment since this will add to the competitiveness of products made on Saipan," said Fitial. The Headnote 3(a) amendment will allow manufacturing firms in the Northern Mariana Islands to sell products to the U.S. that have 70 percent foreign value-added content and 30 percent local value-added content.

‘Significant threats’ seen on DoD plans for Tinian, Pagan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The proposed creation of live-fire military training areas on Pagan and Tinian pose “significant threats” to the islands’ environment and natural resources and could restrict a lot of human activities, government biologists and officials told the U.S. Department of Defense on Friday.

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider also called on other public and private stakeholders to submit their comments, during the meeting of the Military Integration Management Committee on Friday afternoon.

Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios presented to Hofschneider and the rest of MIMC a copy of DLNR’s formal comments to DoD on Friday afternoon.

A portion of DLNR’s comments will also be included in a “unified CNMI comment” regarding DoD’s plans for Pagan and Tinian.

DLNR biologists and officials said the military plan’s potential impacts include those on corals, fish and other marine species, birds, plants, human activities and their interaction with their natural environment.

The list of concerns also include the potential introduction of brown tree snakes, little fire ants, and invasive amphibians such as the coqui frog, greenhouse frog, crab-eating frog, Indian rice frog, painted narrow-mouth frog and others from Guam.

Experts also see a possible increase in the population size of mangrove monitor lizards, which feed on trash of piles and wildlife, and can be hazardous to humans.

‘If they want it…’

Meanwhile, public and private stakeholders conceded that since DoD gets what it needs and wants, the CNMI should at least make the military understand the impacts of its proposed activities and compel them to minimize—if not eliminate—such effects and gain from it economically as well.

“The way I look at it, if they really want it, they are going to get it,” House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said at the MIMC meeting.

Deleon Guerrero’s sentiment was echoed by other stakeholders present, including Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan.

Hofschneider, who convened the MIMC, urged mostly government agencies to make a list of possible impacts that relate to their agency’s mission and concerns by May 1.

These “bullet point” concerns will be compiled and incorporated into a unified CNMI position paper to be submitted to U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command – Pacific in Hawaii.

However, these agencies and private stakeholders are also asked to come up with their more detailed individual comments for direct submission to DoD.

The public comment period ends on May 13.

Hofschneider, in an interview after the MIMC meeting, said the CNMI government is not opposed to DoD’s plan but it wants the military to consider the proposed impacts so that they could minimize if not totally prevent such consequences.

“We are not saying ‘no.’ We do support it, but at the same time we also want to have an opportunity to air some of the issues, negotiate for reasonable exchange, as far as issues raised by stakeholders are concerned,” the lieutenant governor told *Saipan Tribune.*

MIMC serves as the central group for military communications between the CNMI government, DoD and other federal agencies involved with the military buildup in the Marianas.

Specific impacts

DLNR’s letter to DoD listing general and specific impacts of the planned use of Tinian and Pagan was signed by DLNR Secretary Arnold Palacios, acting Division of Fish and Wildlife director Manuel M. Pangelinan, DFW supervisory fisheries biologist Dr. Todd Miller and DFW supervisory wildlife biologist Dr. Russell Benford.

They said military activities would pose a significant threat to corals surrounding Tinian and Pagan.

They said specific activities such as road and facilities construction, beach landings, anchoring, detonation of ordnance and other land and littoral (ocean) activities would potentially damage and stress corals through direct contact and from sedimentation and nutrient loading.

Some 29 of the 66 species of corals in the Pacific proposed or petitioned for listing as endangered or threatened will be impacted, along with other marine species such as dam-selfish, scalloped hammerhead shark and whale shark.

Military activities would also impact Tinian’s northern beaches, for example, that contain expansive shallow water coral reefs that sustain fish and other species.

Other species seen to be impacted are green sea turtles and hawksbill sea turtles.

These are in addition to topsoil erosion, and increase in sediment loads to Tinian’s most protected waters once reconstruction of the Tinian Port begins. Damage to seagrass beds is also seen.

Increased shipping to Tinian and Pagan harbors from vessels outside the CNMI would also increase the likelihood that invasive species will be introduced by both ship hull fouling and ballast water discharge.

Military activities and training exercises are also seen to limit access to important fishing areas that fall within impact danger zones.

Tourism will also be affected because three regularly used dive sites—Dump Coke, Tinian Grotto and Fleming—are within the impact danger zone.

The DLNR letter also cited economic impacts, effects on urban infrastructure such as freshwater production and distribution, restricted access to and degradation of public beaches and cultural and historic sites.

The DLNR biologists and officials also said they are concerned that frequent maritime traffic to and from Pagan might result in “unplanned and unpermitted disembarkation on other islands such as Guguan and Sarigan.”

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

READING MACHINE

Fourth grader Cindy Kim of Saipan International School is a reading machine. This school year she has read 162 books and over 2,521,000 words. She has taken 162 quizzes and has passed them all, getting 94.2 percent of the questions correct. The Accelerated Reader Program at SIS is in its fourth year and has improved reading comprehension and vocabulary from grades K-11th grade. Cindy has acquired over 352.7 points that she uses to obtain prizes. After 33 weeks of school, the fourth graders needed 120 points. She has surpassed that by 232.7 points. With a reading level of 4.2, Cindy continues to strive for perfection. She is one of the many “Super Readers” at SIS.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DPL-104 TINIAN

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 17, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“OFFICE SPACE LEASE (TINIAN BRANCH) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROPOSER MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARCTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D)

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PARTS, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PEDRO A. TENORIO
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
  - i. Thursday, February 7, 2013 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 82 & 83
IV. CORPORATE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
- a. Division Monthly Reports
- b. Update on NMHC’s Bank Signatories
- c. Signatories for NMHC Documents
- d. Proposals for REOs
- e. DPS Request for Garapan Unit
- f. Update on LIHTC Program - 2013
- g. Update on USDA RD Guaranty and Plan of Action
- h. Update on CDBG Matters
- i. Update on NSP3
- j. Update on Program and Housing Division Matters
  1. Amendments to the Admin. Plan
  2. FSS Action Plan
- k. Update on Mortgage & Credit Division Matters
  1. Loans for Review and Approval

V. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
- a. Rota Field Office
- b. Tinian Field Office

VI. FISCAL AFFAIRS
- a. Unaudited Financial Statements as of March 31, 2013
- b. Actual vs. Budget Comparison as of March 31, 2013
- c. Update on 2012 Draft Audit

VII. LEGAL COUNSEL’S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
IX. OTHER MATTERS
X. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Friday, May 3, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.** at the MVA Conference Room San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes - February 7, 2013 and March 7, 2013
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance
   2. Personnel
4) **New Business**
   1. PATA Travel Mart
   2. Hosting PATA Micronesia Chapter Meeting
   3. Hell of the Marianas - FY 2014
   4. Reprogramming & Adjustments for FY 2013 Budget
      a. Khabarovsk - FY2013 Budget
      b. Russia Promotions
5) **Old Business**
6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
7) **Executive Session**
8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-019

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ENGINE LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan and Rota for the period starting August 01, 2013 through August 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **May 7, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *“CUC-RFP-13-019, Supply & Delivery Of Engine Lube Oils for Power Generation”*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 23, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **May 10, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

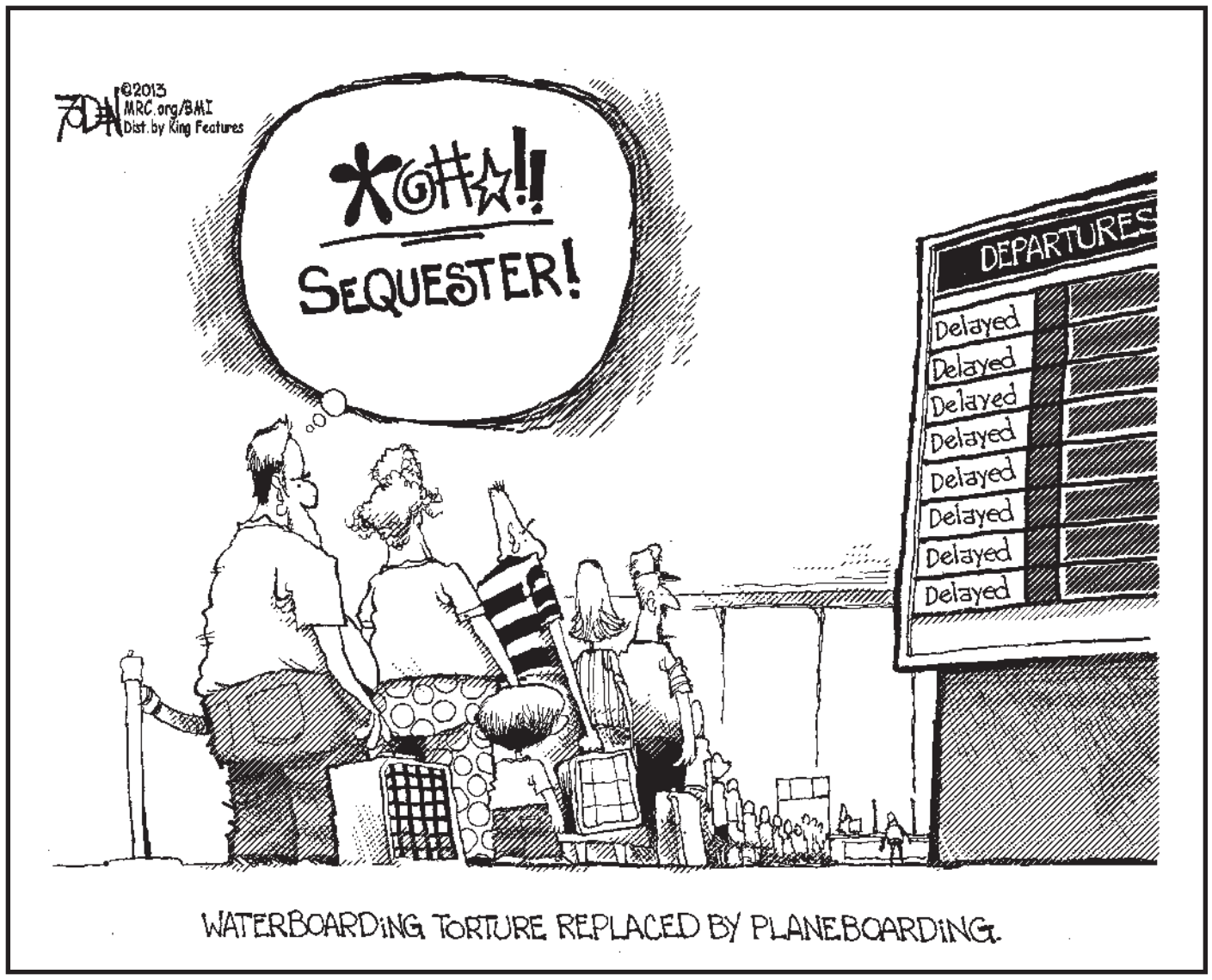
Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 68

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association



China's Middle East footprint

By DAVID SCHENKER
Los Angeles Times

David Schenker is a fellow and director of the Program on Arab Politics at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Security in the Forbidden City across the street from the Great Hall of the People was tight last month when Li Keqiang was installed as premier of China. But the uniformed guards weren't armed with automatic weapons. Instead, they were equipped with fire extinguishers to prevent would-be protesters from self-immolating.

China these days is consumed with concerns about domestic stability. Notwithstanding this internal preoccupation, the Middle Kingdom's increasing appetite for Persian Gulf oil has sparked unprecedented Chinese interest in the Middle East. Some of this is fueled too by Washington's "pivot to Asia" and less American dependence on Persian Gulf oil.

During a recent trip to China, I spent a week talking with analysts about the Arab Spring and the changing strategic dynamic in the Middle East. In surprisingly candid discussions, Chinese experts on that region—many of whom spoke good Arabic—described an evolving view of Chinese involvement in a troubled part of the world the state has long avoided.

China imports nearly 55 percent of its oil from the Persian Gulf, and it has long benefited from the U.S. security umbrella there. One Chinese analyst went so far as to describe the long-standing U.S. aircraft carrier presence there as a "public good." But these days Beijing is concerned about what the Obama administration's pledge to downsize the U.S. presence in the Middle East means for energy and regional security. Closer to home, the Chinese worry about the impact of rising Islamism on the state's restive Muslim population in the gas-rich western province of Xinjiang.

China's think-tankers concede that the People's Liberation Army is not yet capable of playing a security role in the Middle East. Consider that the navy's first deployment outside of Asia—a three-ship anti-piracy escort mission in the Gulf of Aden—occurred less than five years ago, and it was reportedly a stretch for the force. And even if the PLA were able to field troops in the region, Washington wouldn't want to "make room" for China in the gulf, I was told.

But the Chinese I spoke with grudgingly recognized that the People's Republic would eventually be compelled to start playing a bigger role in the Middle East. As one scholar noted, "China is a powerful state but doesn't act it."

While China will not soon contribute in a meaningful way to security in the region, it has been increasing its presence there, including deploying peacekeepers to U.N. contingents in Sudan and Lebanon. It is also laying the groundwork for a more robust regional military presence, establishing its so-called string of pearls network of naval bases that spans from Asia to the Persian Gulf.

Beijing is also raising its profile in the region in other ways. In 2009, Beijing appointed its first special Middle East envoy. And since 2011, China has vetoed three U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning Syria's Bashar Assad regime. Likewise, despite significant investments in Iran's energy sector, China has thus far complied with U.S.-led sanctions against Tehran to dis-

See FOOTPRINT on Next Page

May Day

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

It is the maritime distress call but 5.1 *(Wo yi)* is International Labor Day around the world save the United States where, ironically, the celebration started before it shifted to the first of September.

I just viewed pictures I took of peach blossoms *(tao hua)* already in full bloom this time last year. I have yet to see a bud sprout off the yard, and the range chickens that came around the garden quad by this time have yet to cock-a-doddle-doo.

It's April's end and I am still sporting long john undies, though the mitts now stay in the parka pockets. Workers dug holes along the sidewalks to where the uprooted dead trees wait for their spring replacements. The empty lot beside one of the football fields that will be used by athletes to practice for the upcoming 2013 China Games in Shenyang sprouted an overnight forest of sticks, soon to be green by the forester's reckoning.

Foreign students from places like Bangladesh and Thailand celebrated their new year last week by setting up desks to sell items from their countries along with a band concert in the concrete quad by the Friendship Villa where we reside. Other than the boys downing their beer outdoors where it did not need refrigeration, the local residents of the male and female dorms next door opted to stay indoors.

Our first this year, which was a second in the area in the last six years, was a 5.1 shake on the Richter scale. Given that *Dongbei* is not usually earthquake prone, we had a tremor this week that internally shook us beyond our plastic map tube suddenly tap dancing like a character in a Disney cartoon. The northeastern side of the Manchurian plain is volcanic, with pristine Changbaishan crater lake in China, Baeksan in Korea, at above 8,000 feet, and subterranean rivers abound from Heilongjiang to Liaoning from long ago lava flows, so the incidence of tremors in volcanic terrain is not too foreign, though minor sways in the past originated from neighboring Korea and Japan.

We grew up in the Philippines, lived in the Marianas, and reside in Hawaii, three areas where 20 shakes a day is not unusual. But being on the 11th floor in China's northeast, our map tube tap dance shook us up beyond our regular staid demeanor. We note the quality of building construction around us and we are existentially conscious of the fragility of our finitude.

That we had Gongli in mind (Tuesday's reflection) when the shakes occurred was a brief respite. Sweatshop workers in the shoddily constructed Rana building in Bangladesh were not as pleasantly engaged. Already anxious about the cracks in their building, the cheap garment factory workers were herded in for the day's labor when the building shook. Five days later, rescuers were still pulling out survivors. Some 300 souls were not so lucky.

The weather joke around Shenyang is that autumn is two days, spring is two weeks, summer is two months, and the rest is winter. We are at the onset of our two-week spring as the early mornings and late afternoons remain cool but daytime sweats the sweater off.

The May Day call used to be the workers' cry but as labor unions moved themselves into irrelevance in economic productivity, the workers' plight—save those blatant incidences of inhumane exploitation like the one in Bangladesh (a charge leveled against operators on Saipan not too long ago)—is an insignificant consideration on the investment ledger. All told, only 17 percent of capital formation is still sourced from the stock market. Most investments are now "homegrown" as the "too big to fail" business concern fades into oblivion and corporate cooperative ventures return in vogue.

The May Day call of distress has returned to nature, both in its threatening state as well as its threatened condition. They are not exclusive of each other. Its threatening state of more frequent and stronger quakes makes sense as melting ice adds to the stress on tectonic plates, and the shift in weather patterns leave a more intense signature on formerly drought-stricken and regularly flooded terrain. The converse is equally true. The Pacific El Niño and La Niña weather patterns already show flooding in formerly dry clime, and drought in traditionally wet weather.

Anxiety engulfs our dealing with the incidence of climate change, and considerations of our consumption patterns are more a matter of writers' bestseller performance than as a serious policy adjustment. The oil companies are not about to shun the profits to be made from more drilling and increased fracking that to rail against fossil fuels is psychotherapy rather than actual reduction in weather threats.

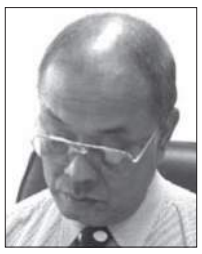
That puts responsible human consciousness in resilient mode, so, perhaps, in the blame game that usually accompanies the distress call of May Day, we may instead focus on accelerating such down-to-earth activities like planting more trees, growing "green" buildings in our cities, recycling trash, capturing more solar and wind energy, and the like.

"Workers of the world, unite," is no longer the clarion call. Creatures of the earth, abide, is. Enjoy the May Day bbq by the lagoon!

The shifting marshland

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



The local Medicaid office announced some 18,000 people on its roll and an anticipated increase this year. The Obamaidiotcare increase forced this upon private insurers. They in turn pass on the cost to policyholders.

We didn't see this coming. The CHC panel was too busy trying to fire the CEO. Now this increase, a cost we must meet by way of matching fund. Medicaid ought to prepare to include some 4,000 retirees when their paychecks quietly recede with the tide of bankruptcy starting in March of 2014.

Can't even imagine the impending economic calamity this would impose on every household here. Our men of wisdom have deferred to floating a pension obligation fund with CDA. A couple of issues emerge as we venture nervously into more debts:

Would CDA accede to such a loan? If so, by how much and what's the interest rate that would pile up more debts than the naked eye could see? If revenue generation has decreased significantly, isn't this a major indicator that we may not be able to pay off the interest on the principal? Troubling and unpalatable every which way you view it.

Long parade to DC

State governments that are in bankruptcy now look toward Washington for some modicum of bailout. The crux of their debt is pension and health issues. Must we not probe the same to see its fiscal implications? Or do we invoke the usual: defer to subterranean mediocrity?

If our humanity includes frailties, then we should have employed the Laffer curve to learn the lessons of our experiences. Einstein calls it "insanity," juggling the same figures hoping for different results. Sad, the same results show their ugly faces time and again.

Before the Sea of Bankruptcy completely engulfs the archipelago, it's time to prepare our canoe so we can set sail to Washington on rescue missions for more pennies, nickels, and dimes that D.C. may dish out to bankrupt state governments. It's the only realistic answer now on the table.

Propping private industries

Any politician worth his salt knows the essence of ensuring that private industries thrive through and through to serve as a cushion when fiscal issues turn insurmountable.

It seems, though, that we have ruined expansion of the private sector by "cherry picking" investors with such niceties as the "qualifying certificates." In the same breath we saddle existing businesses with more taxes, seemingly oblivious to the highly prohibitive cost of utilities.

Whatever happened to common sense or principle-based reasoning? Could we really pay off heavy debts with more taxes or federal policies that have and continues to annihilate the productive sector of the NMI? It certainly boggles the mind how entrenchment has gotten us into sinking deeper in our filthy swamp of mediocrity.

Bush's sense of humility

There was the humble, though very powerful, reminder about leadership and hope that moves our ship forward in calm and storm. This was the stunning message that came from former president George W. Bush at the dedication last week of his presidential library.

Said he: "In democracy, the purpose of public office is not to fulfill personal ambition. Elected officials must serve a cause greater than themselves. The political winds blow left and right, polls rise and fall, supporters come and go. But in the end, leaders are defined by the convictions they hold." Former presidents and the current commander-in-chief spoke of the past while Bush looked forward saying, "America's best days lie ahead."

Now, let's take a look at former governors here to explore who amongst them served a cause "greater than themselves." Did any of them achieve something indelibly significant that moved the livelihood of our people to the level ground of prosperity? If so, who would that person be and what exactly did he accomplish for his people through calm and storm?

If you didn't find anyone that fits the question, is there a reason that such query is a bit too difficult to answer? Did any of them hold the federal government to its obligation under the Covenant Agreement to provide for a "progressively higher standard of living?" If they did then the NMI would be humming along sturdily with a healthy economy today, right? Or did most dismiss it as to watch superficial economic success slowly recede with the imposition of regressive policies?

Perhaps the question is a bit too blunt. But a quick glimpse into their performance rating may be a good undertaking if only to understand if in fact any of them did anything of significance. Most dealt with the retirement program but kept a ten-foot pole, hoping a miracle of sort would push it out the Philippine Seas. The beast is still here, decomposing into bankruptcy along the shore. With a sense of humility, the guys could buckle down to understanding their roles beyond collecting trash around the Fishing Base finger.

Of superficial opulence

Former governor Pete P. Tenorio was the only titular head that warned of the need to save some of our largess that came rolling up our shores in the '80s. He also warned of the diminishing and fatal effects of statutorily imposed minimum wage.

But we were too busy burning meat day in and day out. Everyday was a holiday. From the skies, you would think the entire archipelago was on fire with smoke billowing from downstairs.

The magma of neglect came slowly, torching everything in its way while we watched helplessly. I suppose this is the price of superficial wealth we thought would be around forever.

A world of trouble: North Korea, Venezuela, Syria

By FRIDA GHITIS
The Miami Herald

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. *Readers may send her email at fjghitis@gmail.com.*

The Boston Marathon bombings understandably captured the country's attention. Americans want to know everything they can about the plot, the perpetrators and their victims, and the news industry has gone to great lengths to provide answers to any and all questions.

Unfortunately, that has also meant, to a large degree, ignoring the many other important developments unfolding across the world.

I have always believed it is crucial for Americans—for everyone everywhere, really—to remain engaged and knowledgeable about what happens on all corners of the planet. It's a small world and it's our home. We all live in it. What happens everywhere matters, and eventually touches us more directly than we might have expected.

So, as a public service, I offer a brief roundup of important international developments you may have missed while absorbed in the news from Boston:

North Korea: Before Boston, North Korea's regime had engaged in threatening moves and alarming rhetoric directed at South Korea and the West. Pyongyang was angry that the world imposed sanctions after North Korea conducted its third nuclear test in February. Boston shifted the spotlight, but Kim Jong Un's men have not grown quiet.

During an April 25 ceremony marking the founding of the People's Army, the generals warned his forces might launch intercontinental ballistic missiles and even kamikaze nuclear attacks at the United States. There are conflicting opinions among U.S. intelligence agencies about North Korea's capacity to fit nuclear warheads on long-range missiles.

Separately, South Korea offered to hold discussions on reopening a jointly operated industrial complex. North Korea rejected the offer.

Venezuela: Temperatures are rising following the razor's-edge margin of victory in the April 14 presidential election. The vote, held just weeks after the death of Hugo Chavez, produced a stunning result. Authorities said Chavez's hand-picked successor, Nicolas Maduro, who had once held a double-digit lead over challenger Henrique Capriles, won by barely 300,000 votes out of more than 14 million cast. Maduro has rejected the outcome, charging fraud. In clashes after the results' announcement, as many as nine people were killed.

Capriles continues challenging the results. He has vowed to take the case to Venezuela's supreme court, admitting he's pessimistic that the body, filled with Chavista judges, will give him a fair hearing. Chavistas, for their part, are threatening to imprison the opposition leader. National Assembly leader Diosdado Cabello called Capriles a "fascist murderer" who must be punished. Maduro also threatened to throw him in jail, and the prisons minister said there's a cell waiting for Capriles.

Syria: The opposition fighting to overthrow Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has long accused government forces of using chemical weapons in the country's civil war. Several countries, including France, the United Kingdom and Israel say they have seen evidence that Assad is, in fact, using some of its vast arsenal of banned weapons, but the United States had held back, saying it was looking into the issue.

The matter is enormously important, because President Obama has repeatedly warned Assad that using the weapons would cross a "red line" that would trigger American action, perhaps military action. On Thursday, the White House and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel revealed that U.S. intelligence has concluded that chemical weapons have been used in Syria, and believe it was Assad's forces that used them. Now the president has to decide how to respond, with the knowledge that Assad is testing American and international resolve, and Iran is watching to see how seriously Washington enforces its own red lines.

Also in Syria, Hezbollah fighters from Lebanon have been pouring in across the border to fight alongside Assad's forces, a development that highlights the extent to which the Syrian conflict is destabilizing the already teetering Middle East. If there are signs that Hezbollah is getting its hands on chemical weapons that would surely bring action from the United States, NATO or Israel.

There's much more, of course. Former all-powerful President Musharraf arrested in Pakistan, accused of treason for imposing emergency rule and failing to protect rival Benazir Bhutto, who was killed in a campaign rally. Italy chose a new prime minister amid great economic turmoil. Egypt continues to roil; Colombia received a credit-rating upgrade because of improved peace prospects.

And there were all the other events that have marked an unusually intense period in the United States. But you have heard about those.

If we ignore what happens outside America, it often comes to us repackaged as unwelcome national news. It all makes much more sense if we've paid attention all along.

FOOTPRINT

From Page 10

suade the theocracy from developing a nuclear weapon.

Beijing is also projecting soft power in the Middle East, making a concerted effort to increase trade and investment, especially in the energy sector. China and Gulf Cooperation Council states are negotiating a free-trade agreement. State-owned Chinese companies are building joint-venture refineries in Saudi Arabia and have secured contracts to construct mosques—including a $1.5 billion shrine—in oil-rich Algeria.

This new activism is not motivated by altruism. Beijing's priority is to secure ongoing access to Middle Eastern energy. At the same time, it doesn't want to see Iran go nuclear. But more important, it wants to avoid a fight with Washington over the sanctions.

The lessons of Libya were also sobering. China was later stung by its 2011 Security Council abstention in a vote that condoned international military action to "protect" the Libyan people but was subsequently exploited to topple Moammar Gadhafi. Worse, during that revolt, 40,000 Chinese laborers had to be evacuated, and Beijing's consular and political sections in Tripoli were simply not up to the task. In the aftermath of the Libya debacle, China may bolster its diplomatic representation in the region.

While Beijing may augment its embassies and nascent military presence in the Middle East, there does not appear to be any indication that China will re-evaluate its meager financial contributions to the region. Chinese scholars say Beijing is concerned about stability in Egypt, but it's hard to tell. Last summer, Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi traveled to China in search of economic assistance. He returned home with just $70 million, a grant worth less than Kobe Bryant's last contract.

It is not likely that China will soon contribute to a more stable region. Instead, what the Middle East needs, according to a March 20 editorial by the official New China News Agency, is "helping hands from a responsible and constructive superpower" like Washington. Regrettably, absent a concerted U.S. effort to cajole Beijing to provide grant assistance to struggling Arab states and to support tough U.N. Security Council measures against Iran, the Middle Kingdom will remain a peripheral actor in a turbulent Middle East.

After all, China recognizes that America's commitments to Japan and South Korea—states dependent on gulf energy—will long oblige Washington to underwrite security in the Middle East. So even as the Arab awakening has piqued Chinese concerns about stability, energy security and Islamism, for the time being, I was told, Beijing is content to remain a "free rider."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

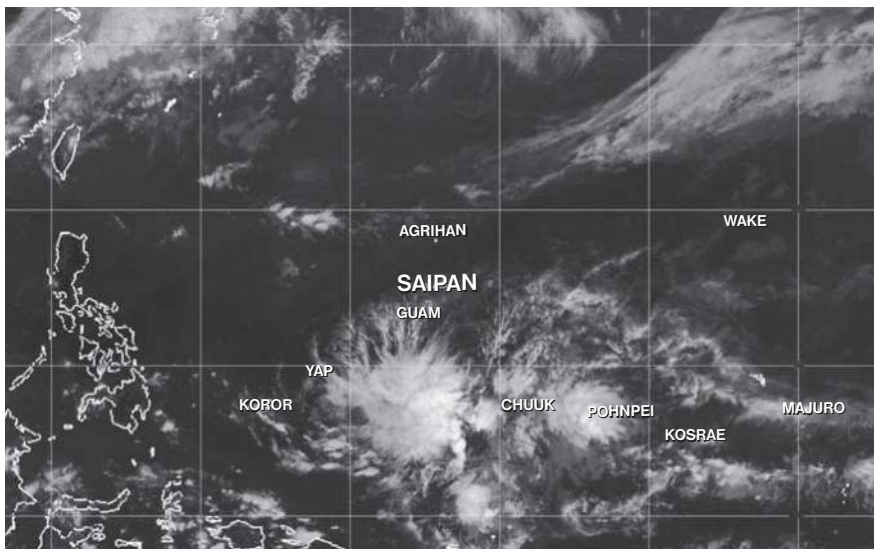
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼80
Palau	Sunny	▲88	▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲91	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼58
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼50
Hong Kong	Showers	▲74	▼69
Honolulu	Sunny	▲84	▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼42
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼57
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼82
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲84	▼73
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼46
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼47
Paris	Cloudy	▲61	▼52
Pusan	Windy	▲59	▼49
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼62
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼35
San Francisco	Sunny	▲74	▼57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼45
Tokyo	Rain	▲65	▼52
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲63	▼53

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends west-southwestward from 25N168E to 22N154E then continues as a shear line to northwest of the Marianas at 18N144E. The shear line then extends westward to 18N136E then northwestward to 22N130E. Extensive cloudiness, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and north of this boundary to beyond 25N east of 148E including Minami Torishima and Iwo To island west of 148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and up to 75 miles north of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 3N130E through a weak circulation centered southwest of Chuuk near 4N146E to end south of Pohnpei at EQ158E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present across Chuuk and Pohnpei and south of Koror, Yap and Guam between 3N and 10N from 137E to 158E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Butaritari within 75 miles of a line from 3N160E to 3N177E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:35 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:14 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
11:54 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:59 PM	10:53 AM
Thursday		11:52 AM
Friday	12:48 AM	12:49 PM
Saturday	1:34 AM	1:43 PM
Sunday	2:16 AM	2:36 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Annual Attorneys General's Cup enters its 29th year

High school students from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will compete in the 29th Annual Attorneys General's Cup on May 3, 2013, at 8:30am in the Supreme Court courtroom.

The Attorneys General's Cup is part of National Law Week, which is a series of events and activities at the Guma' Hustisia that aim to improve students' understanding of the law. Through the dedicated efforts of the CNMI's attorneys general, the competition has continued as an important and prestigious student event that fosters critical thinking and promotes public speaking among the Commonwealth's youth.

This year, the students will discuss whether the Northern Islands should be developed or preserved. The topic is timely and relevant to the Commonwealth, and it is important to hear what our future leaders think about the issue.

The speeches will be scored by a panel of judges comprising Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas and former attorneys generals, including Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, former presiding judge Edward Manibusan, Rexford Kosack, Pamela Brown, Robert Torres, and Matthew Gregory. As an additional honor, U.S. Attorney Alicia Garrido Limtiaco and Guam Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas will also sit as judges for this year's competition.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos will deliver a special address to the contestants, and Diego L. Kaipat, a member of the 12th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council, will deliver the inspirational remarks. Tina Sablan and Gary Sword have volunteered to serve as the mistress and master of ceremonies, respectively, for the event.

The 29th Attorneys General's Cup Speech Competition is open to the public and is sponsored by the Office of the Attorney General, CNMI Bar Association, and the Commonwealth Judiciary. Monetary and in-kind donations from elected leaders and the private sector have greatly contributed to the continued success of the competition.

For those who cannot attend the event, tune in to PBS Guam on Channel 12 for broadcasting of the competition on Sunday, May 12, at 8pm and Monday, May 27, at 9:30pm. ***(Office of the Attorney General)***

DEQ brigade sets COP cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point this Saturday, May 4, 2013 at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point Parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

Last month's Environmental Awareness Month's Islandwide Cleanup drew over 2,000 volunteers and over 4,000 lbs of trash was removed from the beaches and roadsides and properly disposed off. DEQ thanks all groups and individuals who volunteered for this event.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

This is a cleanup that should not be missed, so join DEQ's Cleanup Brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches and roadsides for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

ART COMPETITION WINNERS

Maria Manalo wins first prize in the painting below 30 years old category of the 4th Annual CNMI Art Competition sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC during the announcement of winners on April 24, 2013.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Hervin Jacinto wins second place in the Photography category of the 4th Annual CNMI Art Competition sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC during the announcement of winners on April 24, 2013.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Poland Yamada is the second prize winner in the wood carving category of the 4th Annual CNMI Art Competition sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC during the announcement of winners on April 24, 2013.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Edwardo "Dragon Edong" Elenzano is presented with the second prize in the painting category at the 4th Annual CNMI Art Competition sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC during the announcement of winners on April 24, 2013.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Island Snapshots

LAW DAY CONTEST WINNERS

NMI JUDICIARY

Awardees in the 3rd Annual Law Day Poster and Essay Contests have their picture taken with, from left to right, representative of the CNMI Bar Association Maya Kara, Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, Associate Justice John Manglona, House Speaker Ralph DLG Torres, Senate Vice President Victor Hocog, Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, Associate Justice Perry Inos, and Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

NMI JUDICIARY

Jaqueline Doctor, center, an 8th grade student at Mount Carmel School, is presented with the Chief Justice Award for winning the essay contest for middle school students in the 3rd Annual Law Day essay contest of the CNMI Judiciary on April 25, 2013.

▲ Glen Matalog, a fifth grader at William S. Reyes Elementary School, grabs the top award in the 3rd Annual Law Day poster contest of the CNMI Judiciary on April 25, 2013.

NMI JUDICIARY

◄ Awardees in the 3rd Annual Law Day Poster and Essay Contest with family and teachers and on the top row, from left to right: Clerk of the Supreme Court Deanna Manglona, representative of the CNMI Bar Association Maya Kara, Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, Associate Justice John Manglona, House Speaker Ralph DLG Torres, Senate Vice President Victor Hocog, Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, Associate Justice Perry Inos, Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, and Clerk of the Superior Court Patrick Diaz.

NMI JUDICIARY

MES MAN'AMKO

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Acting Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Laura T. Ogumoro, center, is flanked by deputy secretary Rhonda Nogis and former president Teresita Sorroza of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council after Friday's proclamation signing that declared the month of May as Older American's Month or Mes Man'amo.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is joined by some clients at the Aging Center for a photo after Friday's proclamation signing that declared the month of May as Older American's Month or Mes Man'amo.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 13th birthday to Andy John aka "AJ"! You've grown to be one handsome and charming young man! May the Lord continue to guide you and bless you always! May you have many more years to come! We love you always! Greetings come from Mommy, Auntie Mo, Riley James, and the Magofna/Sablan and Pangelinan families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

FDA will investigate added caffeine in foods

WASHINGTON (AP)—Trail mix. Potato chips. And now gum.

With a growing number of foods boasting added caffeine for an energy boost, the Food and Drug Administration says it's time to investigate their safety.

The FDA's new look at added caffeine and its effects on children and adolescents is in response to a caffeinated gum introduced this week by Wrigley. Called Alert Energy Gum, it promises "The right energy, right now." The agency is already investigating the safety of energy drinks and energy shots, prompted by consumer reports of illness and death.

Michael Taylor, FDA's deputy commissioner of foods, said Monday that the only time FDA explicitly approved the added use of caffeine in a food or drink was in the 1950s for colas. The current proliferation of caffeine added to foods is "beyond anything FDA envisioned," Taylor said.

"It is disturbing," Taylor said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We're concerned about whether they have been adequately evaluated."

Taylor said the agency will look at the potential impact these "new and easy sources" of caffeine will have on children's health and will take action if necessary. He said that he and other FDA officials have held meetings with some of the large food companies that have ventured into caffeinated products, including Mars Inc., of which Wrigley is a subsidiary.

This product image provided by the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company shows packaging for Alert Energy Caffeine Gum.

AP

Wrigley and other companies adding caffeine to their products have labeled them as for adult use only. A spokeswoman for Wrigley, Denise M. Young, said the gum is for "adults who are looking for foods with caffeine for energy" and each piece contains about 40 mg, or the equivalent amount found in half a cup of coffee. She said the company will work with FDA.

"Millions of Americans consume caffeine responsibly and in moderation as part of their daily routines," Young said.

Food manufacturers have added caffeine to candy, nuts and other snack foods in recent years. Jelly Belly "Extreme Sport Beans," for example, have 50 mg of caffeine in each 100-calorie pack, while Arma Energy Snx markets trail mix, chips and other products that have caffeine.

Economic gains may not help Democrats much in 2014

WASHINGTON (AP)—Presidents like to take credit for economic recoveries, just as President Barack Obama is angling to do now.

He and his allies in Congress have "walked the economy back from the brink," his new 2014 federal budget blueprint asserts. And Democrats hope these improvements, while still slow and uneven, will give them at least a small boost in 2014's midterm races.

That's a big order, considering:

■ Presidential claims of responsibility for economic gains rarely win plaudits from voters, yet presidents nearly always get blamed when things get worse.

■ The historical odds for midterm gains in Congress by the in-power party are slim at best. Since World War II, the president's party has lost an average of 26 seats in midterm elections and gained seats only twice—Democrats in 1998 under President Bill Clinton and Republicans in 2002 with George W. Bush in the Oval Office.

■ Presidential elections are often referendums on the economy. That applies less often to midterms.

Still, the health of the economy "is going to be an important factor" in 2014 races, said Democratic pollster and strategist Mark Mellman. "What matters most is changes in the amount of money people have in their pockets. It's very hard to tell people they're better off than they feel."

"But we're still quite a ways from November 2014," he added.

Right now, surveys and reports show that the recovery is continuing, although more slowly than most, despite continued high unemployment and an environment of modest economic growth and inflation. Home prices are on the rise, manufacturing is slowly improving.

United to add 30 new Embraer aircraft to Express fleet

»United purchasing aircraft that a United Express partner will operate

CHICAGO—United Airlines announced yesterday an agreement to add 30 Embraer 175 regional jets to the United Express fleet. Under an agreement with Embraer, United will purchase the aircraft with deliveries in 2014 and 2015. These aircraft will be operated by a United Express partner to be announced later.

"At United, we are focused on modernizing our fleet, and we look forward to introducing the E175 to our United Express service. Compared to the 50-seat aircraft we are replacing, these aircraft provide a superior customer experience and are more fuel efficient," said Jim Compton, United's vice chairman and chief revenue officer. "With a large first class cabin, wider fuselage, and larger overhead bins, this aircraft brings an improved regional flying experience to our customers."

The Embraer 175 is the first 76-seat regional jet aircraft in the United Express fleet. The aircraft will be configured with 12 United First, 16 Economy Plus and 48 United Economy seats. The design of the aircraft will result in more personal space for customers with wider seats and aisles than those on the 50-seat aircraft. The aircraft can accommodate standard carry-on bags, resulting in more convenience for customers.

As United inducts the new aircraft into the United Express fleet, the company will remove some of the older 50-seat regional jets in the fleet. The E175s will consume 10 percent less fuel per seat and will have less CO_2 emissions per seat than the 50-seat aircraft they replace.

United Airlines and United Express operate an average of 5,446 flights a day to more than 370 airports across six continents. For more information, visit united.com. ***(United Airlines)***

Nation

Boston suspect's defense team gets major boost

BOSTON (AP)—The defense team representing the Boston Marathon bombing suspect got a major boost Monday with the addition of Judy Clarke, a San Diego lawyer who has managed to get life sentences instead of the death penalty for several high-profile clients, including the Unabomber and the gunman in the rampage that injured former Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Clarke's appointment was approved Monday by U.S. Magistrate Judge Marianne Bowler.

Bowler denied, at least for now, a request from Miriam Conrad, the public defender of 19-year-old suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, to appoint a second death penalty lawyer—David Bruck, a professor at Washington and Lee University School of Law.

Tsarnaev has been charged with using a weapon of mass destruction during the April 15 marathon. Three people were killed and more than 260 injured when two bombs exploded near the finish line.

The suspect's lawyers could renew their motion to appoint another death penalty expert if he is indicted, the judge said.

Clarke's clients have included the Unabomber, Ted Kaczynski; Susan Smith, who drowned her two children; Atlanta Olympics bomber Eric Rudolph; and most recently Tucson, Ariz., shooter Jared Loughner. All received life sentences instead of the death penalty.

Clarke has rarely spoken publicly about her work and did not return a call seeking comment Monday. However, at a speech Friday at a legal conference in Los Angeles, she talked about how she had been "sucked into the black hole, the vortex" of death penalty cases 18 years ago when she represented Smith.

"I got a dose of understanding human behavior, and I learned what the death penalty does to us," she said. "I don't think it's a secret that I oppose the death penalty."

Bruck has directed Washington and Lee's death penalty defense clinic, the Virginia Capital Case Clearinghouse, since 2004.

In other developments in the Boston case:

■ FBI agents visited the Rhode Island home of the in-laws of the suspect's brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, and carried away several bags. The brother was killed in a gun battle with police.

Katherine Russell, Tsarnaev's widow, has been staying at the North Kingstown home and did not speak to reporters as she left her attorneys' office in Providence later in the day. Attorney Amato DeLuca says she's doing everything she can to assist with the investigation.

■ President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed terrorism coordination Monday in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings. Obama expressed his "appreciation" for Russia's close cooperation after the attack.

Lawyer: Former ricin suspect's home is unlivable

OXFORD, Miss. (AP)—A Mississippi man's house is uninhabitable after investigators searched it but failed to find evidence of the deadly poison ricin, a lawyer said Monday, arguing that the government should repair the home.

Kevin Curtis was once charged in the mailing of poisoned letters to President Barack Obama, U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker and a Mississippi judge, but the charges were later dropped. The investigation shifted last week to another man who had a falling out with Curtis, and that suspect appeared in court Monday on a charge of making ricin.

Curtis' lawyer, Christi McCoy, has sent a letter to U.S. Attorney Felicia Adams demanding that Curtis be provided temporary housing and the government repair his Corinth, Miss., home and possessions. She also wants the government to pay his legal bills.

"To be specific, Mr. Curtis' home is uninhabitable. I have seen a lot of post search residences but this one is quite disturbing. The agents removed art from the walls, broke the frames and tore the artwork. Mr. Curtis offered his keys but agents chose to break the lock. Mr. Curtis' garbage was scheduled to be picked up Thursday, the day after he was snatched from his life. A week later, the garbage remains in his home, along with millions of insects it attracted," the letter says.

Though attorneys for Curtis say their client was framed, McCoy believes whoever sent the letters had a primary goal of targeting the public officials. Curtis has said that he feuded with the man now charged in the case, James Everett Dutschke.

"I think Kevin was just an afterthought or a scapegoat," McCoy said.

Some of the language in the letters was similar to posts on Curtis' Facebook page and they were signed, "I am KC and I approve this message." Curtis often used a similar online signoff.

Had damaging Curtis been the point of the scheme, McCoy said she believes that whoever set up her client could have done a better job of implicating him, such as planting evidence at his home.

McCoy said in an interview Monday that she still believes the FBI acted on the best information available at the time, but it's time to make her client whole. The letter said Curtis' life was "ruined."

Curtis, a 45-year-old Elvis impersonator, was arrested on April 17. The charges were dropped six days later and Curtis was released from jail.

A message left seeking comment about McCoy's letter at the federal prosecutor's office in Oxford wasn't immediately returned.

ACROSS THE NATION

Army amputee completes air assault school

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP)—Sgt. 1st Class Greg Robinson has become the first amputee to complete Army air assault school, a course so grueling his prosthetic leg broke twice over the 10 days spent rappelling down ropes, navigating obstacle courses and completing strenuous road marches. Each year thousands of soldiers are physically and mentally tested at the Fort Campbell school. Instructors said Robinson accomplished everything other participants did and trainers cut him no slack even though he lost part of his right leg on a deployment to Afghanistan in 2006. When Robinson joined teammates at a brief graduation ceremony Monday at the Sabalauski Air Assault School, others called his success a testament to what can be achieved by amputees. War wounds from Iraq and Afghanistan and the recent bombing at the Boston Marathon have highlighted the challenges amputee patients face in recovering.

Man wounded after pulling gun in Utah police lobby

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah (AP)—A man who told authorities months ago that he wanted to be killed by police entered a suburban Salt Lake City police station Monday and pointed a gun at an officer and a records clerk, prompting another officer to open fire on him, wounding the man in the arm. The shooting at about 8:30 a.m. in the heart of West Valley City caused panic at a bustling train and bus stop nearby, with people taking cover as they heard gunshots and saw officers storm outside with their weapons drawn. No one else was hurt as the suspect was quickly shot and apprehended. James Ramsey Kammeyer, 39, was released from a hospital Monday afternoon and booked into jail on suspicion of attempted homicide, threat of terrorism, aggravated assault and possession of a weapon by a prohibited user, said police Sgt. Jason Hauer. Kammeyer is a registered sex offender.

Asia

Bangladesh police interrogate building's owner

SAVAR, Bangladesh (AP)—A Bangladesh court on Monday gave police 15 days to interrogate the owner of a building that collapsed last week, killing at least 382 people, as rescuers used heavy machinery to cut through the destroyed structure after giving up hopes of finding any more survivors.

Mohammed Sohel Rana, who was arrested Sunday as he tried to flee to India, will be held for questioning on charges of negligence, illegal construction and forcing workers to join work. His father, Abdul Khaleque, was also arrested on suspicion of aiding Rana to force people to work in a dangerous building.

The illegally constructed, 8-story Rana Plaza collapsed in a heap Wednesday morning as thousands of people worked inside in five garment factories. About 2,500 survivors have been accounted for.

Rana was brought to the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in a bullet-proof vest, and led away to an unknown detention place after the magistrate granted a police request to hold him longer before filing formal charges. The crimes he is accused of carry a maximum punishment of seven years. More charges could be added later.

The collapse was the deadliest disaster to hit Bangladesh's garment industry, which is worth $20 billion annually and supplies global retailers.

In renewed anger against conditions in garment factories—a mainstay of Bangladesh's economy—hundreds of workers poured into the streets in the Dhaka suburb of Ashulia and set fire to an ambulance Monday, the Independent TV network reported. They also tried to set fire to a factory, it said. Authorities shut down all garment factories in the Ashulia and Gazipur industrial suburbs, including one that had reportedly developed cracks and was evacuated earlier.

Volunteers, army personnel and firefighters have worked around the clock since Wednesday, mostly using their hands and light equipment to pull out survivors. Around midnight Sunday, authorities deployed hydraulic cranes and heavy cutting machines to break up the massive slabs of concrete into manageable pieces that could be lifted away.

"We are proceeding cautiously. If there is still a soul alive, we will try to rescue that person," said army spokesman Shahinul Islam.

However, Brig. Gen. Ali Ahmed Khan, chief of the fire brigade at the scene, said there was little hope of finding anyone alive. "Our men went inside and saw some dead bodies in the ground floor. But no one was seen alive," he said.

Pakistan: Suicide bomber targeting police kills 10

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber targeting police killed at least 10 people in northwestern Pakistan on Monday, including the son and nephew of an Afghan official involved in peace negotiations with the Taliban, authorities said.

The bomber was riding a motorcycle and detonated his explosives as the police patrol drove by in Peshawar, said city police chief Liaqat Ali Khan.

The two Afghans who were killed, Qazi Mohammad Hilal Waqad and Mohammad Idrees, were working at their country's consulate in Peshawar, said Afghan Consul General Syed Mohammad Ibrahim Khel in Peshawar.

However, it did not appear they were the target of the attack, Khel said.

Waqad's father, Qazi Amin Waqad, is a member of the Afghan High Peace Council, said an official at the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad, Shakir Qarar. The council was appointed by the Afghan government to hold peace talks with the Taliban to end the 11-year-old war in neighboring Afghanistan. The peace council member was in Afghanistan when the attack occurred, and Waqad and Idrees were driving to work at the time, Qarar added.

The blast killed 10 people and wounded 42, said Khan, the Peshawar police chief. Three policemen were among the wounded. Many of the dead and wounded were on a nearby passenger bus, which bore the brunt of the explosion, said Khan.

Local TV footage showed the wreckage of the bus and the motorcycle, as rescue workers rushed wounded people to hospitals in the city.

No one immediately claimed responsibility.

The Pakistani Taliban has been waging a bloody insurgency against the government for years and has stepped up attacks ahead of next month's parliamentary election.

Also Monday, two gunmen riding a motorcycle attacked a campaign office of an anti-Taliban political party in northwestern Pakistan, killing a worker there, police chief Khan said. The Awami National Party office is in the city of Nowshera.

Elsewhere in the northwest, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives near a vehicle carrying Awami National Party candidate, Mohammad Ahmed Khan, in Charsadda district, said local police chief Ghulam Hussain. Khan was not hurt, but one person was killed and nine were wounded, said Hussain.

Amnesty: Sri Lanka govt acting harsher on critics

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The Sri Lankan government is intensifying a crackdown on critics by sanctioning abuses often committed by security forces or their proxies, Amnesty International said Tuesday.

Journalists, the judiciary, human rights activists and opposition politicians are among those targeted in a pattern of threats, harassment, imprisonment and violent attacks, the report said.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa's government promotes an official attitude that equates opposition with treason, the human rights group said.

"Violent repression of dissent and the consolidation of political power go hand in hand in Sri Lanka," said Polly Truscott, Amnesty's deputy director for the Asia Pacific region, in the statement accompanying the report.

"There is a real climate of fear in Sri Lanka, with those brave enough to speak out against the government often having to suffer badly for it," Truscott added.

Amnesty says the government started consolidating power immediately after the military defeated the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels, ending a prolonged civil war in 2009.

A constitutional amendment pushed through by Rajapaksa's ruling coalition in 2010 boosted the president's control over the judiciary, police and elections officials, while eliminating term limits for the presidency.

At the same time, government critics have been harassed, attacked and sometimes killed, Amnesty said, detailing dozens of such cases, both before and after 2009.

Amnesty also said the government undermined the judiciary's independence "by making threats against judges who rule in favor of victims of human rights violations."

In January, Parliament impeached Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake while not complying with court orders that called into question the fairness of the process. Rajapaksa appointed a close aide as the new chief justice.

Amnesty also cited intimidation against journalists. The report said at least 15 have been killed since 2006 and others were forced to flee the country.

While much of Sri Lankan media is firmly in the hands of the government, authorities have targeted independent outlets that have criticized government policies or conduct.

World

Syrian prime minister escapes bombing

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Syria's prime minister narrowly escaped an assassination attempt in the heart of the heavily defended capital Monday, state media said, laying bare the vulnerability of President Bashar Assad's regime.

The bombing, which killed several other people, highlights an accelerating campaign targeting government officials, from mid-level civil servants to the highest echelons of the Syrian regime.

State television said Prime Minister Wael al-Halqi was not hurt in the bombing, which struck his convoy as it drove through the posh Mazzeh neighborhood—home to embassies, government officials and business elites with close ties to the regime. Footage of the scene broadcast on state TV showed the charred hulks of cars and the burnt-out shell of a bus in a street littered with rubble.

The attack on al-Halqi punctuated a series of attacks on government officials in recent weeks. On April 18, gunmen shot dead the head of public relations at the Ministry of Social Affairs while he dined at a Mazzeh restaurant. A day later, a Syrian army colonel was killed in Damascus, and five days after that a bomb killed an official from the Electricity Ministry.

Then there are the larger attacks that have shaken the regime to its core.

Last month, a suicide bombing at a Damascus mosque killed Sheik Mohammad Said Ramadan al-Buti, a leading Sunni Muslim preacher and outspoken supporter of Assad. That followed a blast last July that killed four top regime officials, including Assad's brother-in-law and the defense minister, at the Syrian national security building in the capital.

AP

This photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, shows Syrian fire fighters extinguishing burning cars after a car bomb exploded in the capital's western neighborhood of Mazzeh, in Damascus, Syria, Monday, April. 29, 2013.

Netherlands' Queen Beatrix gives farewell speech

AMSTERDAM (AP)—The Netherlands' Queen Beatrix thanked her people Monday and urged them to support her son, Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, in a final address before she abdicates and he takes over as king.

Beatrix, 75, is to sign the papers enacting the once-in-a-generation change of royal titles Tuesday morning, the central moment in several days of festivities that are already underway.

"Now that my oldest son is to take over this fine and responsible job tomorrow, it is my deep wish that the new royal couple will feel themselves supported by your loving trust," the popular monarch said in a nationally televised address. Willem-Alexander's Argentine-born wife Princess Maxima will be queen.

"I am convinced that Willem-Alexander will apply himself with true devotion for everything a good king is obliged to do."

Beatrix is hosting nobility from around Europe and beyond Monday evening for a dinner at the newly renovated national museum, the Rijksmuseum. Guests will dine in front of Rembrandt van Rijn's masterpiece, the Night Watch.

Earlier in the day, the streets of Amsterdam began flooding with orange in honor of the ruling House of Oranje-Nassau, as government and noble guests prepared for the ceremonies, and the people of the country got ready for a huge party.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mandela appears an ailing man in video

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—South African President Jacob Zuma said he found Nelson Mandela "in good shape and in good spirits" Monday, but a video of his encounter with the ailing anti-apartheid icon belies those cheery words, showing him with a vacant look on his face. It's been more than three weeks since Mandela was released after a 10-day stay in the hospital, the third time in five months that he was hospitalized for a recurring lung infection. "We saw him, he's looking very good, he's in good shape," Zuma told the South African Broadcasting Corp. on the doorstep of Mandela's Johannesburg home. "We had some conversation with him, shook hands, he smiled, as you can see him, that he's really up and about and stabilized. We're really very happy. We think that he's fine."

Powerful blast injures at least 35 in Prague

PRAGUE (AP)—A powerful blast believed to be a gas explosion ripped open an office building in the center of Prague on Monday, injuring at least 35 people and sending shockwaves through the Old Town tourist district. The blast shattered windows in the scenic area of charming streets and postcard-pretty buildings, sending glass flying. Authorities closed a wide area around the site and some tourists were stranded on street corners with baggage-loaded trolleys, unable to get into their hotels. Authorities said two or three people were still believed to be missing, but sniffer dogs searching the rubble had not indicated that anyone was buried and the prime minister said it appeared no one had died.

Focus

AP

Saiful Islam Nasar poses in front of the rubble of a building collapse in Savar, near Dhaka, Bangladesh Monday April 29, 2013. Nasar, a mechanical engineer is one of hordes of volunteers who came to Savar to help with the rescue effort. They get no funding, have no training and buy their supplies themselves. They have featured largely in efforts to save those who were crushed in the worst disaster to hit Bangladesh's $20 billion a year garment industry.

Surviving hell in a Bangladesh factory collapse

SAVAR, Bangladesh (AP)— Merina was so tired. It had been three days since the garment factory where she worked had collapsed around her, three days since she'd moved more than a few inches. In that time she'd had nothing to eat and just a few sips of water. The cries for help had long since subsided. The moans of the injured had gone silent. It was fatigue she feared the most. If sleep took her, Merina was certain she would never wake up.

"I can't fall asleep," the 21-year-old thought to herself, her face inches from a concrete slab that had once been the ceiling above her. She'd spent seven years working beneath that ceiling, sewing T-shirts and pants destined for stores from Paris to Los Angeles. She worked 14 hours a day, six days a week, with her two sisters. She made the equivalent of about $16 a week.

Now she lay on her back in the sweltering heat, worrying for her sisters and herself. And as the bodies of her former coworkers began to rot, the stench filled the darkness.

The eight-story, concrete-and-glass Rana Plaza was one of hundreds of similar buildings in the crowded, potholed streets of Savar, an industrial suburb of Bangladesh's capital and the center of the country's $20 billion garment industry. If Bangladesh remains one of the world's poorest nations, it is no longer a complete economic cripple. Instead, it turned its poverty to its advantage, heralding workers who make some of the world's lowest wages and attracting some of the world's leading brands.

But this same economic miracle has plunged Bangladesh into a vicious downward spiral of keeping costs down, as major retailers compete for customers who want ever cheaper clothes. It is the workers who often pay the price in terms of safety and labor conditions.

The trouble at Rana Plaza began Tuesday morning, when workers spotted long cracks in at least one of the building's concrete pillars. The trails of chipped plaster led to a chunk of concrete, about the size of a shoe box, that had broken away. The police were called. Inspectors came to check on the building, which housed shops on the lower floors and five crowded clothing factories on the upper ones. At 10 a.m., the 3,200 garment workers were told to leave early for lunch. At 2 p.m., they were told to leave for the day. Few of the workers—mostly migrants from desperately poor villages—asked why. Some were told the building had unexplained electricity issues.

The best factory buildings are well-constructed and regularly inspected. The workers are trained what to do in case of an emergency.

Rana Plaza was not one of those buildings. The owner, Mohammed Sohel Rana, was a feared neighborhood political enforcer who had branched into real estate. In 2010, he was given a permit to build a five-story building on a piece of land that had once been a swamp. He built eight stories.

Rana came quickly after the crack was found. So did the police, some reporters and officials from the country's largest garment industry association.

Rana refused to close the building. "There is nothing serious," he said. The workers were told to return the next morning, as scheduled, at 8 a.m.

Merina, a petite woman with a round, girlish face and shoulder-length hair, never saw the crack. She comes from Biltala, a tiny village in southwest Bangladesh, where there is electricity but little else. Her father is a landless laborer who grows rice and wheat on rented farmland, and, when he can, travels the seven hours by train to Dhaka to sell cucumbers, cauliflower and other vegetables on the street. When she was 15, she moved to Dhaka. Some of her aunts were already working in garment factories, and she quickly had a job. For millions of Bangladeshis, the garment factories of Dhaka are a dream. Every year, at least 300,000 rural residents—and perhaps as many as 500,000—migrate to the Dhaka area, already one of the most crowded cities on the planet.

Poverty remains the norm across most of rural Bangladesh, where less than 60 percent of adults are literate. To them, the steady wage of a garment factory—even with minimum wage less than $40 a month—is enough to start saving up for a scooter, or a dowry, or a better school for the next generation.

Merina's two sisters joined her in Savar, where women make up the vast majority of the factory workers. Here, the poor learn quickly that it is not their role to question orders. And girls learn quickly that nearly all decisions are made by men.

So for a woman like Merina, who like many Bangladeshis goes by one name only, there are generations of culture telling her not to question a command to go back to work.

When some factory workers did speak up Wednesday morning, they were reminded that the end of the month—and their paychecks—were coming soon. The message was clear: If you don't work, you won't get paid.

"Don't speak bullshit!" a factory manager told a 26-year-old garment worker named Sharma, she said, when she worried about going inside. "There is no problem."

Around 8:40 a.m. Wednesday, when the factories had been running for 40 minutes or so, the lights suddenly went off in the building. It was nothing unusual. Bangladesh's electricity network is poorly maintained and desperately overburdened. Rana Plaza, like most of the factories in the area, had its own backup generator, sometimes used dozens of times in a single day.

A jolt went through the building when the generator kicked on. Again, this was nothing unusual. Eighteen-year-old Baezid was chatting with a friend as they checked an order of short-sleeved shirts.

He'd come from the countryside with his family—mother, father and two uncles—just seven months earlier. Since then, he'd worked seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to midnight. His salary was about $55 a month. But he could more than double that by working so many hours, since overtime pays .37 cents an hour.

Sometime after the generator switched on—perhaps a few moments later, perhaps a few minutes—another, far larger, jolt shook the floor violently. The building gave a deafening groan. The pillars fell first, and one slammed against Baezid's back. He was knocked to the floor, and found himself pinned from the waist down, unable to move.

He heard coworkers crying in the darkness. One coworker trapped nearby had a mobile phone, and the seven or eight people nearby took turns to call their families.

Baezid wept into the phone. "`Rescue me!'" he begged them.

Like a young boy, he kept thinking of his mother. He wanted to see her again.

In Bangladesh, people in need of help rarely think first of the police, or firefighters, or anyone else official.

Baezid called his family. So did many other people. The state is so dysfunctional here, so riven by corruption and bad pay and incompetence, that ordinary people know they have a better chance of finding help by reaching out to their families. Often, they simply call out for the help of whoever will come.

Until Monday, when there was no hope left for survivors and heavy equipment was brought in to move tons of concrete, many of the rescuers working inside the rubble were volunteers. They were garment workers, or relatives of the missing. Or, in the case of Saiful Islam Nasar, they were just a guy from a small town who heard people needed help.

Nasar, a lanky mechanical engineer from a town about 300 kilometers (185 miles) away, runs a small volunteer association. They get no funding and have no training. They buy their supplies themselves. For the most part, the group offers first aid to people who have been in car accidents. During the monsoon rains, they help whoever they can as the waters rise around the town.

When he saw the news, Nasar gathered 50 men, jumped on a train and reached Rana Plaza about 11 hours after the collapse.

He made his way into the rubble with a hammer and a hacksaw, by the light of his mobile phone. In six days, he says he has rescued six people, and helped carry out dozens of bodies.

That first night, he slept on the roof of the collapsed building. Then for two nights he slept in a field, and now he has a tent. But he can't sleep much anyway, because the images of all the corpses keep running through his head.

Told that he was a hero, he looked back silently.

Then he wept.

Merina was sitting at her knitting machine on the fourth floor, in the Phantom-TAC factory, when the world seemed to explode.

She jumped to her feet and tried to run for the door, but pieces of the ceiling slammed down on her. She crawled in search of a place to hide, and found one: a section of the upstairs floor had crashed onto two toppled pillars, creating a small protected area. About 10 other men and women had the same idea, including Sabina, a close friend. The two women clutched hands and wept, thinking their lives would end in a concrete tomb. "We're going to die, we're going to die," they said to each other.

The group could barely move in the tiny space. Merina's yellow salwar kameez was drenched with sweat. The air was putrid with the smell of death.

As time passed, desperately thirsty survivors began drinking their own urine. One person found a fallen drum of water used for ironing and passed around what was left in a bottle cap. Merina sipped gratefully.

She kept thinking of her sisters, who shared a single bed with her in a corrugated tin-roofed room near the factory.

Her sisters, though, had been luckier.

Merina's older sister, Sharina, ran out just in time. She turned around to watch the building she had toiled in for years fold onto itself in an instant.

"I must be no longer on this earth," she thought, her hands covering her ears from the deafening boom. After a frantic search,, she found 16-year-old Shewli, who had also escaped. But where was Merina? She borrowed a cell phone and called her father in their village. "I managed to escape, but Merina is still trapped," she told him.

Their parents booked tickets on the next train to Dhaka.

They arrived Thursday morning, joining hundreds of other relatives who had thronged to the scene. Merina's mother prayed hard, promising God a devotional offering—a valuable gift from this rural family—if Merina got out alive.

"If you save the life of my daughter, I will sacrifice a goat for you," she promised.

Campus Life

Red Cross reaches out to students and schools

With summer fast approaching, the American Red Cross NMI Chapter is encouraging all schools in the Marianas to take advantage of the its School Partnership Program.

"There are a few ways that schools can get involved with the Red Cross," said Kennedy Benjamin, Preparedness Health & Safety Services manager for the NMI. "They can provide lifesaving training to faculty, staff, and students, create a Red Cross School Club, or become a shelter location for victims displaced by disasters."

In order to conduct training, the school has to identify one or more adults to be trained as certified Red Cross instructors to teach PHSS programs. Students can receive free training in first aid and CPR, while adults can take a certification courses at a discounted rate.

The Red Cross also wants to increase the number of school clubs in the NMI.

"There are four school clubs in the NMI," Benjamin said. "Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Saipan International School, and Mount Carmel School actively engage the chapter to conduct mission-oriented activities."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Junior and senior students of Marianas Baptist Academy, along with their vice president, Pastor Ramiro Trinidad, far left kneeling, pose for a photo shortly after completing an American Red Cross Hands-Only CPR training on Tuesday, April 30, 2013, in a classroom at MBA. The one-hour introductory CPR course teaches participants how to provide chest compressions to unconscious victims.

The final way schools can partner with ARC is to become a shelter.

"The Red Cross's overall mission is to provide relief to victims affected by disaster," said JD Tenorio, ARC-NMI's Emergency Services director. "Shelters are important as they serve as temporary housing, while victims begin the process of rebuilding their homes and lives."

"Although we cannot prevent disasters from occurring, we can take steps to minimize the adverse effects in the aftermath," Benjamin said. "By having our schools and youth involved with the Red Cross, we can have a better prepared community that is able to respond to emergencies."

For inquiries, contact the local chapter at 234-3459 or via email at nmichapter@redcross.org. Also visit www.redcross.org/nmi to see how else you can get involved with the Red Cross. ***(ARC)***

7 PGFC gold medals in 3 events for GCA

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Grace Christian Academy 2013 Primary Grades Forensic Conference regional winners have their picture taken on campus.

Seven Grace Christian Academy students won gold medals in three events at the 2013 Primary Grades Forensic Conference regional competition on April 20, 2013, at Hopwood Junior High School. GCA finalists won 17 out of 60 awards for both divisions: kindergarten to 2nd grade and 3rd grade to 5th grade.

The gold medal winners are 5th grader Arvin Dayao and 2nd grader Ryan Daproza, both for Impromptu Speaking, and the Choral Speaking team of K5 students: Alana Carrasco, Briston James Jones, Timothy Neal, Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, and Katelyn Mafnas.

The three silver medalists are the Duo Interpretation tandem of 4th graders Joshua Elijah Pajarillaga and Gianpaolo Borromeo and another Impromptu Speaking winner from 2nd grade, Matthew Ernest.

The four bronze medalists are 5th grader Jim Michael Ham for Impromptu Speaking, 1st grader Julia Christine Jinang for Reader's Forum, and 4th grader Christy Na Lee and 2nd grader Steven Adriatico, both for Dramatic Interpretation.

Grace Christian Academy PGFC coach and coordinator Esther Manzano said that GCA school's mission statement about producing vibrant, loving, and confident students is being practiced as their PGFC competitors practice and perform not only in the regional competition, but also in the four monthly qualifying competitions.

"The kids are having fun practicing, and they are gaining more confidence performing in front of an audience. I think the most important aspect is that the kids are enjoying themselves," added Manzano.

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy would like to extend their congratulations to all the winners and thank everyone who participated, including the coaches and judges in this year's PGFC competitions.

GCA vice principal and acting principal Beth Ann Nunez said: "We are very proud of all of our students. They worked hard to prepare for these competitions! We also want to thank Mrs. Manzano for all the planning, preparation, and heart she puts into PGFC each year."

Organized by the National Forensic League board and supported by the CNMI Public School System, over 150 kindergarten to 5th grade students from 10 private and public schools vied for this year's PGFC regional awards in forensic arts: reading, public speaking, and interpretations.

Great job to all GCA PGFC participants this school year and congratulations to the following winners.

K-2 DIVISION

Choral Speaking
Alana Carrasco, 1st place
Briston James Jones, 1st place
Timothy Neal, 1st place
Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 1st place
Katelyn Mafnas, 1st place

Impromptu Speaking
Ryan Daproza, 1st place
Matthew Ernest, 2nd place
Deancey Adriel Chua, 4th place
Makena Carrasco, 5th place

Dramatic Interpretation
Steven Adriatico, 3rd place
Julianna Rue Magtalas, 4th place

Reader's Forum
Julia Christine Jinang, 3rd place
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 5th place

3-5 DIVISION

Impromptu Speaking
Arvin Dayao, 1st place
Jim Michael Ham, 3rd place
Tae Yong Kim, 4th place

Duo Interpretation
Joshua Elijah Pajarillaga, 2nd place
Gianpaolo, Borromeo, 2nd place

Elliot Lee, 4th place
Jonathan Lee, 4th place

Dramatic Interpretation
Christy Na Lee, 3rd place

Humorous Interpretation
Robert Hanrey Schorr, 5th place

Reader's Forum
Gianpaolo Borromeo, 5th place

GCA PGFC teacher/coaches: Galilee Neal (kindergarten 5), Leah Garfil (1st Grade), Esther Manzano, GCA coach/coordinator.

GCA PGFC volunteer judges: Rowena Libut, Glenn Keaton, Paulo Montecarlo, Emman Parian, Zuriel Chua

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, SAEF School teacher/coach Rosalie Habijan, Keisha Fajardo, Deirdre Rosete, Kristina Jane Crisostomo, Rejenemhay Jingco, Claire Angela Marzan, and Kids Cove teacher/coach Grace Rosete.

SAEF School students win major awards

Congratulations to SAEF School students from the fourth and fifth grade who were awarded gold and silver awards for their respective events at the regionals for the Primary Grade Forensic Competition, held on April 20, 2013, at Hopwood Junior High School.

Deirdre Rosete won the gold for Dramatic Interpretation. Another gold medal went to the Choral Speaking group of Rejenemhay Jingco, Claire Angela Marzan, Keisha Fajardo, and Deirdre Rosete. Kristina Jane Crisostomo got a silver for Humorous Interpretation.

The school's coaches were Rosalie Habijan and Grace Rosete. The regionals was participated in by private and public schools in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

Golden Harvest students win gold in regional forensics

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest International School's participants in the 3-5 Division of the Primary Grade Forensic Competition held at Hopwood Junior High School on April 20, 2013.

The Primary Grade Forensic Competition held at Hopwood Junior High School on April 20, 2013, was a stiff battle among the participants but Golden Harvest International School students once again showed strong performances.

"We are delighted that our students won and bagged the golds in K-2 as well as the 3-5 Division. This recognizes the hard work and accomplishments of our students and their coaches. I also thank the teachers for their strong innovative team combining their expertise and commitment to excellence," said school principal Marilyn Divino.

The PGFC event for K-2 and 3-5 Division was the culmination of the quarterly competitions headed by the untiring efforts of president Harold Easton and Angie Wheat. Kudos for your effort and hard work! Congratulations to all our winners!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest International School's participants in the K-2 of the Primary Grade Forensic Competition have their picture taken inside the school campus.

K-2 DIVISION
CH –RF
Jesse Jack Stole, 1st place
Raesyl Solis, 4th place

C-Speak
Kaithlyn Chavez, 4th place
Mia Abuan, 4th place
Tamia Hix, 4th place
Nicole Mariano, 4th place
Breana Patawaran, 4th place

Sukey Wu, 4th place
Sebastian Bernardo, 4th place
Aaron Ignacio, 4th place
Raesyl Solis, 4th place

DUO
Mark Jainier Chavez, 5th place
Michelle Leon Guerrero, 5th place

Ivan Yuri Ferrera, 5th place
Sukey Wu, 5th place

C- Speak
Marlon Pineda , 5th place
Daniel Gonzales, 5th place
Amber Sureta, 5th place

3- 5 DIVISION
CH-RF
Michelle Leon Guerrero, 1st place

DI
Siver-Davean Gonzales, 2nd place

C- Speak
Silver- Marione Corpuz, 2nd place
Davean Gonzales, 2nd place
Vince Salvador, 2nd place
John Isaac San Nicolas, 2nd place

Coaches: Leonor Marfil, Imelda Bautista, Nestor Tam, Adelaida Viloria, Marilyn T. Divino
Judges: Amelita Ibanez, Novie Galvez, ELenita Duarte, Katherine Florita, Belinda Acosta
PGFC/NJFL coordinator: Flordeliza Flores

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest International School's participants in the National Junior Forensic League.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MATH WHIZZES

Congratulations to our students for qualifying in the Math Court State Championship Competition. The students that participated in these events at Oleai Elementary School (K-2) and Dandan Elementary School (3-5) on Saturday, April 27, 2013, are Erin Mae Tam, John Paul Labadan, Sukey Wu, Vince Philip Salvador, and John San Nicolas. Their coaches are Leonor Marfil, Nestor Tam, and Adelaida Viloria.

Kindergarten registration at OES

Oleai Elementary School kindergarten registration for school year 2013-2014 will be from May 13 to May 31, from 2:30pm to 4:30pm in the school main office.

Registration documents required: Complete registration form, copy of birth certificate (from court), school entrance health certificate (updated), copy of school accident/health insurance/medical (updated), legal adoption/guardianship documents, map of residential location, zoning area (Oleai Elementary School zone covers the areas bounded by south of Naked Fish restaurant on Beach Road, Gualo Rai in traffic light going south, south to Chalan Laulau, Chalan Kiya (golf course), As Terlaje going west to Oleai, Falughulo, San Jose (Oleia), north of Island Market behind the IT&E building.

Guardians must provide proof of legal guardianship as notarized and recorded in court, copy of photo I.D., age of entrance (students entering K-5 must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 31, and students will not be officially registered until all required documents have been submitted.

For more information call 664-3942 or 237-3501. ***(PR)***

Life & Style

Zeta-Jones checks into mental health facility

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A spokeswoman for Catherine Zeta-Jones says the actress has "proactively" checked into a mental health facility for treatment of her bipolar condition.

Publicist Sarah Fuller said in an email to The Associated Press late Monday that Zeta-Jones "is committed to periodic care in order to manage her health in an optimum manner."

Two years ago, the 43-year-old Oscar-winner checked into a similar facility for a brief stay for treatment of her condition, known as Bipolar II. The disorder is characterized by mood swings and depressive episodes, and is commonly treated with medication and psychotherapy.

Zeta-Jones has been one of the busiest talents in show business of late, appearing in such films as "Rock of Ages," "Playing for Keeps," "Broken City" and "Side Effects."

The actress's most recent treatment was first reported by TMZ.

AP

Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones attend the Film Society of Lincoln Center's 40th Annual Chaplin Award Gala honoring Barbra Streisand on Monday, April 22, 2013, in New York.

APNewsBreak: NY Governor Andrew Cuomo has book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Andrew Cuomo, the popular governor and a possible presidential contender in 2016, has a book deal.

HarperCollins told The Associated Press on Monday that Cuomo will write "a full and frank account" about his private life and the "profound moments" of his first term in office, including signing gay-marriage legislation. Financial terms of the deal weren't disclosed.

Cuomo, a Democrat who hasn't declared his plans for 2016, was represented by a man with much experience in handling presidents and presidential contenders, Washington attorney Robert Barnett, whose clients include President Barack Obama and another possible 2016 candidate, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The Cuomo book is scheduled for next year, when Clinton also has a book expected.

Earlier Monday, Cuomo dismissed reports that he would not seek the presidency should Clinton run, saying that he was focused on being governor.

Cuomo, 55, was secretary of Housing and Urban Development during President Bill Clinton's administration and served four years as New York's attorney general before being elected governor in 2010. He has signed legislation allowing gay couples to marry in the state, helped secure financial aid for victims of Superstorm Sandy and signed tough gun control legislation into law after the deadly Newtown, Conn., elementary school shooting.

Ed Helms' 'Tiny Commando' series coming to Yahoo

NEW YORK (AP)—Yahoo's latest slate of original programming is led by Ed Helms as a 4-inch-tall crime fighter.

"Tiny Commando," created by the "The Office" star, was unveiled Monday night in a presentation by Yahoo to advertisers in New York. It stars Helms, along with Zachary Levi, of "Chuck," and Gillian Jacobs, of "Community."

Following in Netflix's footsteps, Yahoo will simultaneously release all episodes of "Tiny Commando" and other comedy series this fall.

Yahoo, based in Sunnyvale, Calif., also will debut a series titled "Losing Your Virginity With John Stamos," in which the former "Full House" actor interviews celebrities about their first sexual experiences. Documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock executive produces.

Along with YouTube, Netflix and Hulu, Yahoo has sought in recent years to expand into original programming—mainly short-form Web series—that draws users to its platform. Erin McPherson, Yahoo vice president and head of video, said the company has more than doubled its original video programming in the last year.

Yahoo's presentation Monday was part of this week's Digital Content NewFronts, at which digital media companies lay out their programming plans much like TV broadcasters do every spring. Last year, Yahoo touted its most high-profile series: Tom Hanks' sci-fi, animated "Electric City." While "Electric City" was widely judged a dud, Yahoo has found a modest hit in "Burning Love," a parody of "The Bachelor" now beginning its third season.

Also part of this year's slate is Cheryl Hines, a star of "Curb Your Enthusiasm." Hines and Rachael Harris will star in "We Need Help," a comedy in which the two actresses exploit a shared personal assistant.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Sarah Jessica Parker aboard Amanda Peet's play

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Amanda Peet has managed to lure Sarah Jessica Parker and Blythe Danner to share a stage again with her first play. The Manhattan Theater Club said Monday it will stage the world premiere of Peet's "The Commons of Pensacola" this fall at New York City Center. Lynne Meadow will direct. Producers said the play "is an incisive and funny new play about trying to love your family even when you hate what they've done." Previews begin Oct. 22 with an opening on Nov. 21. Danner and Parker will reunite onstage, having previously starred together in MTC's 1995 production "Sylvia" by A.R. Gurney. Peet, known for roles in "Saving Silverman" and on TV's "The Good Wife," will be making her professional playwriting debut.

Rod Stewart, T.I. set for 'Voice' performances

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC says it's lining up musical artists including Rod Stewart to perform on "The Voice" in May. The network said Monday that Stewart, CeeLo Green, Lady Antebellum, Robin Thicke, Pharrell Williams and T.I. will take the stage on upcoming episodes of the hit singing contest. Stewart and Green are set to sing on the May 8 episode of "The Voice." Lady Antebellum, Thicke, Williams and T.I will perform May 14. All of the artists have new material to showcase, including upcoming albums from Stewart, Green and Lady Antebellum. Thicke, Williams and T.I. collaborated on Thicke's latest single, "Blurred Lines." Williams has a single out, "Get Lucky," while T.I. has the album "Trouble Man: Heavy Is the Head." Most of the guest stars have "Voice" connections, including former coach Green.

Bob Hope items to be auctioned for Calif. charity

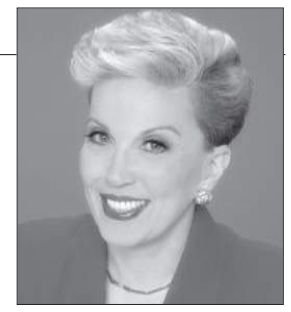
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hundreds of personal items, including antiques, artwork and furniture once owned by Bob Hope and his wife, Dolores, will be auctioned to benefit a Southern California charity. The Daily News of Los Angeles reports proceeds from the sale Saturday will help the family service center at St. Charles Borromeo Church in North Hollywood, where Dolores Hope was a member for 70 years. The couple's daughter, Linda Hope, says memorabilia from Bob Hope's long show business career will also be up for sale. Prices will range from $10 to several hundred dollars an item. An auction of additional property from the couple's Toluca Lake estate will be announced by Julien's Auctions of Beverly Hills later this year. Dolores Hope died in 2011. Bob Hope died in 2003.

Beastie Boys memoir scheduled for 2015

NEW YORK (AP)—The Beastie Boys want it all on the record. The iconic hip-hop group has a deal with Spiegel & Grau, an imprint of Random House Inc., for an illustrated oral history. The currently untitled book is scheduled for fall 2015. Spiegel & Grau says the book will track the band's rise from its high school years in New York City to its induction in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012. The publisher says "world-famous writers and cultural figures" will be interviewed for the project. The book will be organized by surviving band members Michael Diamond (Mike D) and Adam Horovitz (Ad-Rock) with the help of hip-hop writer and editor Sacha Jenkins. Adam Yauch (MCA) died last year.

Man peeking out of closet should open it all the way

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My oldest son came out to me as a gay man in a private conversation. I have no problem with him being gay; however, I DO have a problem with the fact that he has asked me not to tell anyone. He isn't ready to come out to anyone else. I tried to advise him that until he is true to himself, he won't be happy. My son says if he comes out to anyone else, it would "hurt so many people."

I will keep his secret, but there is a young woman he is living with and planning to marry, and I do not believe this is fair to her or her child. He is not happy being a gay man, and that's why he's choosing to live a lie. He was raised in church and feels like he is betraying God by being gay.

How can I support him and lie to this young woman he is with? My son is so confused. How do I help him and keep his secret at the same time?

ANONYMOUS

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Your son may not be "happy" being a gay man, but that is who he is. For him to keep a secret like this from his fiancee, who plans to share the rest of her life with him, will be MORE hurtful to her if he goes through with the wedding than telling her now.

Help him by encouraging him to seek counseling through an LGBT community center. It will be strictly confidential, and there is nothing he can tell them they haven't heard before. He has already cracked open his closet door by disclosing his sexual orientation to you. This tells me that on some level he wants to open it all the way.

He is fortunate that he has a parent who is as accepting and wise about life as you. Continue talking to him and encourage him to talk more with you. It may help him to become more comfortable opening up and to accept reality.

DEAR ABBY: I live in a small town where traffic isn't much of a problem. Recently, though, a young man was killed in a car wreck. He ran into a semi because he was texting while driving. His final text was to a friend who had asked if they could get together for a night of fun.

As a rule, we look down on people who drink and drive, as this is unacceptable in today's world. But we do nothing to drivers who text and drive. Please advise your readers that no message is worth dying over. Last night there was ANOTHER traffic accident caused by the same thing!

ROBERT IN KILGORE, TEXAS

DEAR ROBERT: Sadly, that "night of fun" will have to be postponed indefinitely. Sometimes it takes a tragedy (or two) to wake people up because they're operating under the delusion that they are the exception to the rules of the road or are invincible.

DEAR ABBY: My mother is in her mid-90s and in good health. She has no intention of dying soon, but asked me an interesting question. She has mileage points with a major airline and was wondering if she can use them for the "final trip" back to her home state for burial when the time comes. Do you know the answer?

ONE-WAY TICKET

DEAR ONE-WAY: Your question is not only an interesting one, but it's a first. I contacted a spokesperson for a major airline who responded that his company does not accept mileage points as a form of payment for any type of "shipment." For her last flight, your mother would no longer be considered a passenger; she would be cargo, which is why her points idea won't fly.

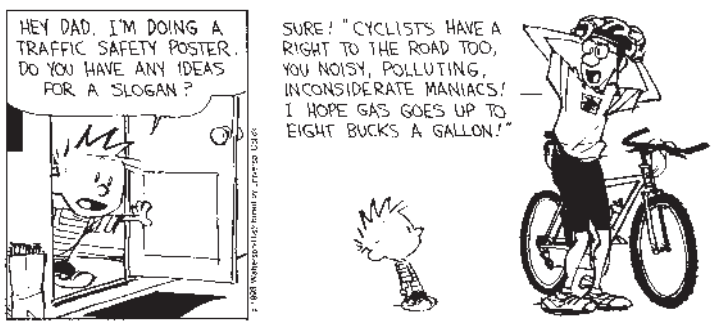
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

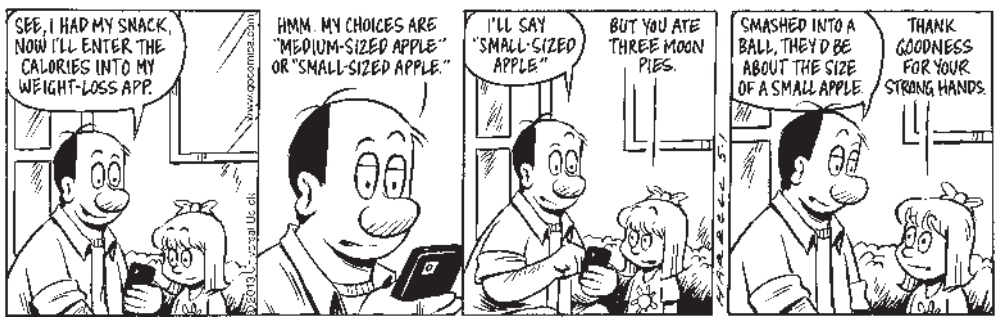

HEY DAD. I'M DOING A TRAFFIC SAFETY POSTER. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR A SLOGAN?
SURE! "CYCLISTS HAVE A RIGHT TO THE ROAD TOO, YOU NOISY, POLLUTING, INCONSIDERATE MANIACS! I HOPE GAS GOES UP TO EIGHT BUCKS A GALLON!"
THANKS, DAD. I'LL GO ASK MOM.
WHY? THAT'S A GREAT SLOGAN!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

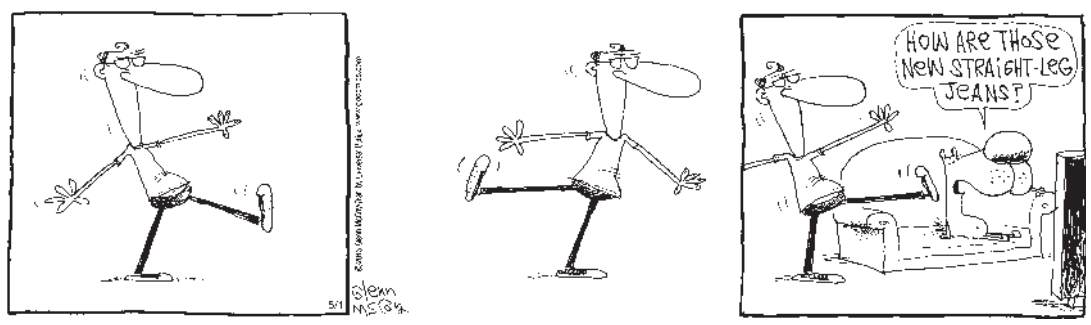
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SEE, I HAD MY SNACK, NOW I'LL ENTER THE CALORIES INTO MY WEIGHT-LOSS APP.
HMM. MY CHOICES ARE "MEDIUM-SIZED APPLE" OR "SMALL-SIZED APPLE."
I'LL SAY "SMALL-SIZED APPLE."
BUT YOU ATE THREE MOON PIES.
SMASHED INTO A BALL, THEY'D BE ABOUT THE SIZE OF A SMALL APPLE.
THANK GOODNESS FOR YOUR STRONG HANDS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

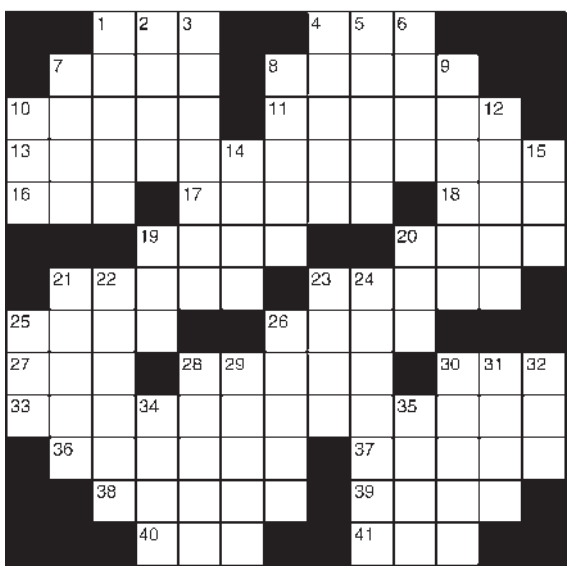
ACROSS
1 Possesses
4 Cribbage scorer
7 Ringlet
8 Preclude
10 "M*A*S*H" setting
11 Scents
13 Kitchen pair
16 — and outs
17 "The — Show With Jon Stewart"
18 Whopper
19 Citi Field team
20 Marching music-makers
21 Topper for Miss USA
23 Rushmore or Rainier
25 Responsibility
26 Cried
27 Lawyers' org.
28 Memorable mission
30 Shooter ammo
33 13-Across, e.g.
36 African desert wind
37 Ointment
38 Military subdivision
39 Unattractive
40 Mauna —
41 More, to Manuel

DOWN
1 Throws hard
2 Neighborhood
3 — : spoken :: libel : written
4 Danger
5 Black wood
6 Ready for action
7 Quarter, e.g.
8 CSA president
9 Overcoat sleeve
10 Japanese pond carp
12 Epithet for Simon Templar (with "The")
14 Information
15 Scarlet
19 Spring month
20 On the other hand
21 Big brass
22 Slanted, as lettering
23 Viral Web phenom
24 One skilled in playing dead
25 "— Kapital"
26 Goes up a few degrees
28 Worship
29 Parkinson's treatment
30 Doctor's orders?
31 Jealousy
32 Iron or Bronze
34 Out of control
35 Long story

Solution time: 21 mins.

J	A	W	S		M	A	P		M	E	I	N
E	C	H	O		A	D	O		U	N	D	O
F	F	E	L		S	A	I	N	T	D	O	M
F	R	E	E	D	O	M		A	I	S	L	E
			M	A	N		T	A	N			
I	R	O	N	Y		K	I	N	G	D	O	M
F	A	R			V	I	E			I	R	E
S	T	A	R	D	O	M		T	W	E	E	T
			E	E	L		B	A	R			
F	A	T	W	A		B	O	R	E	D	O	M
A	I	H	A	N	D	O	M		N	A	V	E
D	O	E	R		N	U	B		C	L	A	N
S	P	E	D		A	I	E		H	E	L	D

Yesterday's answer 5-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wes Anderson, 44; Tim McGraw, 46; Joanna Lumley, 67; Judy Collins, 74

Happy Birthday: Rearrange your routine to fit your needs. Don't allow emotional matters to stop you from reaching your goals. Put greater emphasis on making mental, physical and financial improvements. Stand up to anyone who tries to take advantage of you. Hone your skills and use them wisely. Steer clear of unpredictable individuals. Love and commitment are highlighted. Your numbers are 5, 11, 17, 20, 29, 33, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Offer help and suggestions, but don't let anyone play on your emotions. Offering too much for too little in return will end in resentment. Have a good strategy and prepare to counteroffer. Your expertise won't let you down. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't worry about what others do or say. Concentrate on your goals and put your strengths to the test. A responsible attitude will improve your reputation and make you a contender for a position that interests you. A little romance is apparent. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You need to look at the big picture first and then decide what's feasible and what isn't. Expand your knowledge, friendships or relationships with your peers. Someone from your past will have an influence on the choice you make now. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Find out what you can do for others and you will buy your way into an auspicious situation. Sharing thoughts with someone you feel close to will improve your relationship. Make a promise to someone you love. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Listen to what's being said and mull over the way you feel about the developments being made, but refrain from taking a negative position. You will get much further if you use common sense and reverse psychology. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Follow through with your ideas. Present and promote what you have to offer. A serious talk with someone in a key position or who has the expertise required will make an unusual but fascinating contribution. Love is in the spotlight. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Embrace a place, person or project you feel offers peace of mind and greater opportunity. Rest and rejuvenate while you mull over what you plan to do next. Consider how you can improve your living space to suit your lifestyle. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Pump up the action. Get involved. Do your best to make a difference. Partnerships will be emotional if you don't do your fair share. Step up when called upon and avoid being left out in the future. Don't offer an empty promise. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can run, but you cannot hide. Face inevitable changes head-on and they will turn out to be much less taxing than you imagined. A change you make at home will open up all sorts of new possibilities. Believe in yourself. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look, see and do. Focus on home, family and making your life run smoothly. Make up your mind and stick to your decision. Look at the big picture and make your choice based on long-term possibilities. Romance is recommended. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Stick close to home. Don't get involved in a conversation that will leave you in a compromising position. Know what you want and don't deviate from your set plans. Clarity will come from doing what's best for you. Expand your interests. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Go over all your past dealings and goals that you have yet to accomplish. Pull in favors and contact people you know can deliver what you ask for. Take time to nurture a relationship that means a lot to you. Strive for self-improvement. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, serious-minded and steadfast. You are a doer.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4	5	3	2	8		
	3						4	
6				8				2
7				5				1
8	6			7	9	5		3
4								8
9								6
	8			9			3	
		6	8	1	7	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	8	7	3	2	9	6	4
6	3	9	1	8	4	5	2	7
4	2	7	6	5	9	8	3	1
2	1	4	8	9	3	7	5	6
8	7	3	5	2	6	4	1	9
9	6	5	4	7	1	2	8	3
5	8	1	9	6	7	3	4	2
3	9	6	2	4	5	1	7	8
7	4	2	3	1	8	6	9	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/30

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REMEMBERING 1913 Solution: 10 letters

H	M	A	E	D	A	M	H	W	O	R	D	O	O	W
A	A	D	I	R	E	U	N	I	O	N	O	T	E	I
B	R	R	T	R	D	C	E	I	O	(D)	T	N	H	L
E	S	I	I	S	C	N	L	T	A	O	(R)	D	O	S
R	H	A	O	S	I	R	A	A	T	R	N	(O)	F	O
B	A	N	U	U	H	T	A	R	R	A	T	C	(F)	N
O	L	O	I	N	N	C	U	F	G	E	F	K	A	T
S	L	P	M	I	I	E	H	H	T	B	A	K	E	R
C	A	L	E	O	T	N	M	A	C	E	T	I	H	E
H	N	E	T	N	R	T	P	O	N	A	E	N	T	A
A	D	U	I	S	A	R	N	E	W	D	R	G	S	T
M	B	X	K	S	M	A	L	L	A	D	R	A	O	Y
P	O	R	O	F	I	L	M	R	R	C	E	A	P	D
N	A	R	N	A	L	P	A	L	A	C	E	M	I	T
P	T	R	A	D	E	P	R	E	M	I	E	R	E	S

© 2013 Universal Uclick www.wonderwerc.com Join us on Facebook 5/1

Adrianople, Aircraft, Baker, Boat, Central, Champ, Declare, Dock, Etta, Film, Ford, Gandhi, Grand, Haber Bosch, Harishchandra, Hoffa, Hudson, King, Land, Made, Marshall, Martin, Nixon, Note, Otto, Ouimet, Palace, Parachutist, Parade, Parks, Peace, Plan, Post, Premieres, Reunion, Rosa, Small, Taft, Time, Trade, Train, Treaty, Unions, Wilson, Women, Woodrow

Yesterday's Answer: Historic

The NEW Treasury 15 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $11.95 (plus $5.00 postage and handling for the first treasury; $4.00 for each additional treasury ordered at the same time) to: King Features Treasury 15, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Offer good in the U.S. and Canada only. Void where prohibited, taxed or restricted by law. Offer subject to change without notice.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Damsel in distress

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

IPod & IPhone Repair
We now unlock IPhone's and any Smart Phones around the world
Please call 233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday 9:00am - 9:00pm

Looking for Property
Preferred location:
Capitol Hill or Navy Hill
(Ocean View to Managaha)
- Must have property map

Please call 234-5700 or email at mtopsun@yahoo.com

For SALE or RENT
3 STOREY BUILDING
1st Floor - BIG OFFICE SPACE
2ND FLOOR – APT UNITS:
Two (2 bedrooms, 1bathroom)
One (4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms)
3RD FLOOR – APT UNIT:
One (1 bedroom, 1 bathroom)
Call Maria at 989-7654 or 483-3970

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Mechanical Engineer / Expediter
- 4 to 5 years experience in Real Estate
- Engineering graduate

Maid / Housekeeping Cleaner
- 1 to 2 years experience

Please send resume to:
Equitable Consulting Services • Fax: 234-5104

Job Vacancy Announcement
ACCOUNTANT
- 4 to 5 years experience in Financing and Insurance
- BSBA Accounting graduate

Please send resume to:
Friendly Finance Co., Inc. • Fax: 234-5104

Job Vacancy Announcement
(2) Fisherman
2 years experience.
Salary: $650.00
Free Boarding.

Kimo Mobile Fishing
Tel.: (670) 235-2427

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Storekeeper
2 years experience. Salary: $5.55 p/h

Submit Resume to:
J'smalotte Corporation
P.O. Box 500877, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 235-2427

Liang's Limited Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement
1 - Cook. Must be familiar with Chinese cuisine. Able to speak Chinese language preferred. 3 years experience required.
Interested applicants please send resume to liansmile@yahoo.com or call 670-989-4676

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Carpenter/Painter
Salary: $5.55 per hour.
5 years experience.

Please submit resume to Bespren Development c/o Exquisite Salon. Tel. # 235-5362

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGER (1) Min 5 yrs exp in administrative and HR functions. Knowledgeable in Peachtree prog, prepares tax reports, handles permits, licenses & workers' immig docs. Represents the company before banks & gov't agencies. Clears container shipment/docs at Customs. College grad. Salary depends on qualifications & exp.

CARPENTER (1) Min 5 yrs exp in bldg repairs, maintenance & installation such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing, mechanical & others. Familiar in OSHA and CNMI environmental laws, Knowledgeable in using maintenance tools & equipment. Must have a certif from OSHA const industry safety & health training. Salary depends on qualifications.

Send resume to hongeei@pticom.com **HONG ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES, INC.**

Xiong's Family, Inc.
(Saipan Triple Star Recycling Inc.)
Job Vacancy Announcement
1 - Department Manager. Salary $5.55 p/h. 5 years experience required. Must fulfill job assignments from Managers.
Interested applicants please send resume to P.O. Box 503616, Saipan, MP 96950.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Opening Date: **April 29, 2013** **Closing Date:** **May 17, 2013**

Position: **Receptionist**
Salary: **PL 18/01 – $13,052.98 to PL 18/05 ($15,870.10 P/A)**
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 17, 2013, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than May 17, 2013, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

AC PACIFIC, LLC dba STAR SANDS PLAZA
P.O.BOX 503842-CK SAIPAN,
MP 96950-3842
TELEPHONE: 233-3535 FAX: 233-3232
E-MAIL ADDRESS: star@starsands.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS AND SEEKING POSITIVE, ENERGETIC, OUTGOING, FRIENDLY, AND WITH WORK EXPERIENCE RELATED TO THE VACANCY.

1. THREE (3) MERCHANDISERS/BUYERS –MUST BE ABLE TO KNOW HOW TO DO REMERCHANDISING – MUST KNOW REPLENISHMENT FIFO SYSTEM, ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE LOWS AND OUTS AND REPORT IT TO THE STORE MANAGEMENT, MUST USE OWN JUDGEMENT TO PERFORM DUTIES, BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THE QUANTITY ORDER NEEDED, SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH FACTOR AND RATIO WHEN ORDERING BOTH OFF ISLAND AND LOCALS, BE ABLE TO FAMILIARIZE WITH COST AND RETAIL AND MUST DEMONSTRATE ABILITY TO GET ALONG WITH OTHERS AND BE COACHABLE.
MUST ALSO BE A HARD WORKER AND HAVE THE ABILITY TO DEAL WITH NINE DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES. THE PROSPECT MUST PROVIDE TRAINING AND ACCOMPLISHMENT CERTIFICATION. SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES IF THE ATTENDANCE IS POOR.
SERIOUS APPLICANT SHOULD HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE WORKING WITH THE "MICROSOFT DYNAMIC AX 2012" SYSTEM.
2. TO APPLY, (1) WALK-IN PREFERABLY
(2) CAN USE OUR WEBSITE
(3) DO NOT CALL IN

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Jewelry Appraiser – Must have 4 to 5 years experience in jewelry appraising, honest and trustworthy.

(1) Barber – Must have 2 to 3 years work experience. Must be familiar with crew cut, fades and hair tattoos. Applicants must mail resume together with valid identifications, original police clearance and previous employment certifications to CALMA CORPORATION PMB 205 PPP BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950. No phone calls please.

Tinian Muslim Comm., Inc. is looking for a priest. Muslim faith w/ Islamic study. 4 yrs exp. Tel. 433-2442.

1 Operations Manager (Tour): $1,300/mo. 5 years experience in tour agency management required. Korean speaking and writing fluency required. Email resume to hit@hanmisaipan.com.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Large family home in Dandan 5 Br./3 bths. Unfurnished w/ new Ref., Stove, Washer, walled & gated, private. View of Laulau & Forbidden Isl., 3 stories, outside kitchen. Call 322-0268.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
1-Plumber
with 5 years experience. Salary negotiable.
Please submit resume to
Bespren Development c/o Exquisite Salon.
Tel. # 789-7684/789-7938

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Manager
Min. 5 yrs experience. Extensive knowledge in Accounting, Office Management & Insurance Industry. Ability to adjust in different working environments & deal with various clients of different ethnicity. Salary commensurate with work experience. Send police clearance together with cover letter & resume to friendshipinformation @gmail.com or Friendship Ent., Inc., P.O. Box 501193 CK, Saipan, MP 96950.

WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

SOS

WHATZIT © 2013 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS
Saipan Tribune
Over 100 food stamp vouchers on hold
Opinion
Focus
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill competition
GCA's January forensic winners

PACIFIC CENTURY INC, have job openings for reliable and experienced personnel:

Cashiers/Grocery Checkers(4): Operate Casio ECRs with scanners. Minimum two years experience. Accurate cash transacting, able to validate checks and process credit cards transactions. Must be healthy, presentable, and above 21 years to legally transact restricted alcohol and tobacco products. This is a multitask position involving grocery checking, bagging or receiving or merchandise display at light hours. Split shifts, weekend shifts. $5.55 - $6.05 per hr depending on experience in ECRs.

Store Supervisors (2): Supervise all employees to ensure product availability, competitive pricing, updating of Casio ECRS, verifying cash sales, and all other functions to ensure store competitiveness, cleanliness, and pleasant environment for complete customer purchase satisfaction. Minimum four years retail experience. Must have competitive market knowledge. Early and late shifts. $5.95-$7.50/hour

Retail Buyers (2): Buy merchandise, frozen, chilled and fresh produce for resale. Familiar with fast moving merchandise, sources of supply, order quantities and costs. Select items, order merchandise, allocate display retail areas, assign store work including receiving, merchandising, product mark-ups and other related duties. Minimum 2 years experience in the CNMI retail sector required. Applicants must be knowledgeable of products, suppliers and market pricing to be able to perform purchasing duties. $5.55 - $6.05/hr.

Butchers (2): Cut frozen products, trim and pack for resale. Minimum two years experience in meat cutting with current health clearance. Thorough knowledge of food safety, sanitation, and dismantling and re-assembling equipment, and facility maintenance for safe processing of meats and frozen foods required. Must know how to safely operate high speed Biro or Hobart Meat Cutters and Slicers, and be able to use barcoding meat labeling. Split shifts. $5.55 - $6.05 per hr.

General Maintenance Worker (1) Part- Time (1): Maintenance of store and equipment to include light welding, carpentry, cleaning, painting, pipe fitting, aligning of meat cutters, forklift maintenance and other related duties in maintenance. Full time applicant must have current OSHA certification in operating forklifts to transfer equipment for cleaning. Minimum two years experience. $5.55 to $6.05 per hr.

Cleaners (2): Perform combination of light cleaning duties to maintain private households and businesses. Minimum two years experience required with written references from past employers attesting to reliability and honesty. Able to work night and weekend shifts. $5.55 per hr.

Sorters (4): Perform sorting of materials for recycling, sampling or testing. Must be able to work in all weather conditions. This may be a part time or project based employment, with early morning, evening and week-end split shifts. Minimum one year experience in general labor, preferably some knowledge of waste sorting. Must be able to follow instructions on materials separations and accurately achieve weights and volume specifications in material separations. $5.55/hr

Heavy Equipment Operators/Facilities Personnel (4): Able to operate lift trucks, balers, compressors, generators, grinding equipment, back-hoes. Must have general mechanical knowledge, current OSHA certification for lift trucks, and possess knowledge of work place safety. $5.55 - $7.50 per hour depending on experience. Minimum one years experience needed. This is a project based position, with split and weekend shifts.

Please submit resume to include ORIGINAL current police clearance and health certificate **by mail only** to Pacific Century Inc, P.O. Box 504514. Please submit references with telephone contact numbers for verification of attendance of previous employment. **U.S. citizens and USCIS work authorized residents are preferred. Applicants may be required to undertake drug testing**. Selected Applicants may be assigned to either company's locations or at project sites, and rotated at management's discretion.

Pacific Century Inc., is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: April 26, 2013 POSITION: Guest Relations Officer
CLOSE DATE: May 3, 2013 SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Proficiency in Japanese & Chinese languages. Must be able to read, write, and speak Japanese/Chinese. Minimum of two(2) years in hotel front desk or concierge services strongly preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude.

OPEN DATE: April 26, 2013 POSITION: Lifeguard (full time & part-time)
CLOSE DATE: May 3, 2013 SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Obtaining a lifeguard certification may be required for continued employment. Must have friendly and outgoing personality.

OPEN DATE: April 26, 2013 POSITION: Cook
CLOSE DATE: May 3, 2013 SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) year experience in culinary experience. Applicants with formal training/ education in culinary arts strongly preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment.

OPEN DATE: April 26, 2013 POSITION: Mechanic/Electrician
CLOSE DATE: May 3, 2013 SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Formal electrician education or training highly preferred. Formal Training in Mechanical repair/engineering highly preferred.

OPEN DATE: April 26, 2013 POSITION: Human Resources Clerk
CLOSE DATE: May 3, 2013 SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum of two years experience of progressively responsible human resources experience is required. Knowledge of pertinent HR regulations and procedures and ability to multi-task. Must have knowledge of employment rules and regulations of the state and federal laws.

OPEN DATE: April 26, 2013 POSITION: Graphic Artist
CLOSE DATE: May 3, 2013 SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum of two (2) years experience in computer graphic design. Formal education/training in IT or Design related subjects highly preferred.

OPEN DATE: April 26, 2013 POSITION: Accountant
CLOSE DATE: May 3, 2013 SALARY: Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in accounting strongly preferred. Minimum two years experience as a supervisory level employee in the field of accounting or business operations highly preferred. A certified public accountant qualification preferred but not required.

OPEN DATE: April 26, 2013 POSITION: Steward
CLOSE DATE: May 3, 2013 SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) year experience in culinary experience. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment.

For more information, please contact Human Resources Office at (670) 234-5900 ext. 575/576.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER
SPORTS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a full-time news reporter and sports reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills, with strong grasp of grammar and syntax;
- For news reporter, experience in news and feature writing preferred;
- For sports reporter, experience in sports writing preferred;
- Can work fast within deadlines and in a stressful environment;
- Must be able to work on holidays, weekends, late nights, and on short notice;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email you résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. On-island hires preferred.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

JWS AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

TWO (2) METAL SHEET WORKER - Salary $5.55 - $ 6.00/Hr.
- Fabricate, assemble, install & repair metal sheet products & equipments such as ducts, control boxes, drain pipe & AHU casings
- Must have experience with metal, fiberglass & koolduct ducting fabrication
- Set up & operate fabricating machine, related fabrication tools & welding machine
- Must be knowledgeable in interpretating plans & specifications

ONE (1) ACCOUNTANT - Salary $5.75/Hr.
- Prepare tax returns, tax payments & financial reports & verify its accuracy & conformance with standard accounting principle
- Monitor daily transactions, prepare journal entries & record to Wintac Pro HVAC Acctg Program
- Handles customer billings, collections, & cash receipts, payment & payroll
- Knowledgeable in WintacPro HVAC Accounting Program & Microsoft office

ONE (1) COMMERCIAL CLEANER - Salary $5.55/Hr.
- Perform duties to maintain & clean office & private residence in an orderly manner
- Perform basic household chores
- Must be honest, responsible, reliable & efficient at all times.

FOUR (4) AC & REF TECHNICIAN - Salary $5.55 - $10.50/Hr.
- Install, service & repair ventilation, central air conditioning & refrigeration systems
- Perform repair & trouble analysis of VAV & WT control systems & electrical / electronic control systems
- Repair & service chilled water air-conditioning system. Experience with turbocor compressors & controls a plus
- Specific experience with Manitowoc Ice Machines, Taylor Ice Cream Machines, Walk-in refrigeration systems & other food service equipments a plus
- EPA Section 608 & R410A certified required.

ONE (1) SALES ENGINEER - Salary $5.55 - $7.50/Hr.
- Sells HVACR mechanical, electrical and related equipment, parts and supplies.
- Prepares estimates on equipments, parts, supplies, or services as needed
- Knowledgeable in interpreting plans & specifications and prepare shop drawings and BMS
  Knowledgeable in the following equipment:
  - Split-type air conditioners
  - Residential and commercial ducted package and split units
  - Refrigeration equipments , cool rooms and ice machines

Except for Commercial Cleaner, applicants must possess good communication skill & a minimum 10yr. work experience required.

Application can be obtained & submitted to JWS AC & Ref Inc's. office at WH-Door 2, Dotse Pl., Beach Rd., Southern Garapan (at the back of Moylan's Insurance) or email to: jwssaipan@pticom.com; tonys.jwssaipan@pticom.com

NBA center Jason Collins comes out as gay

WASHINGTON (AP)—With the simplest of sentences, NBA veteran Jason Collins set aside years of worry and silence to become the first active player in one of four major U.S. professional sports leagues to come out as gay.

In a first-person article posted Monday on *Sports Illustrated*'s website, Collins begins: "I'm a 34-year-old NBA center. I'm black. And I'm gay."

Collins has played for six teams in 12 seasons, most recently as a reserve with the Washington Wizards after a midseason trade from the Boston Celtics. He is now a free agent and wants to keep playing in the NBA.

"I didn't set out to be the first openly gay athlete playing in a major American team sport. But since I am, I'm happy to start the conversation. I wish I wasn't the kid in the classroom raising his hand and saying, `I'm different,'" Collins writes. "If I had my way, someone else would have already done this. Nobody has, which is why I'm raising my hand."

Saying he had "endured years of misery and gone to enormous lengths to live a lie," Collins immediately drew support for his announcement from the White House—President Barack Obama called him—along with former President Bill Clinton, the NBA, current and former teammates, a sponsor, and athletes in other sports.

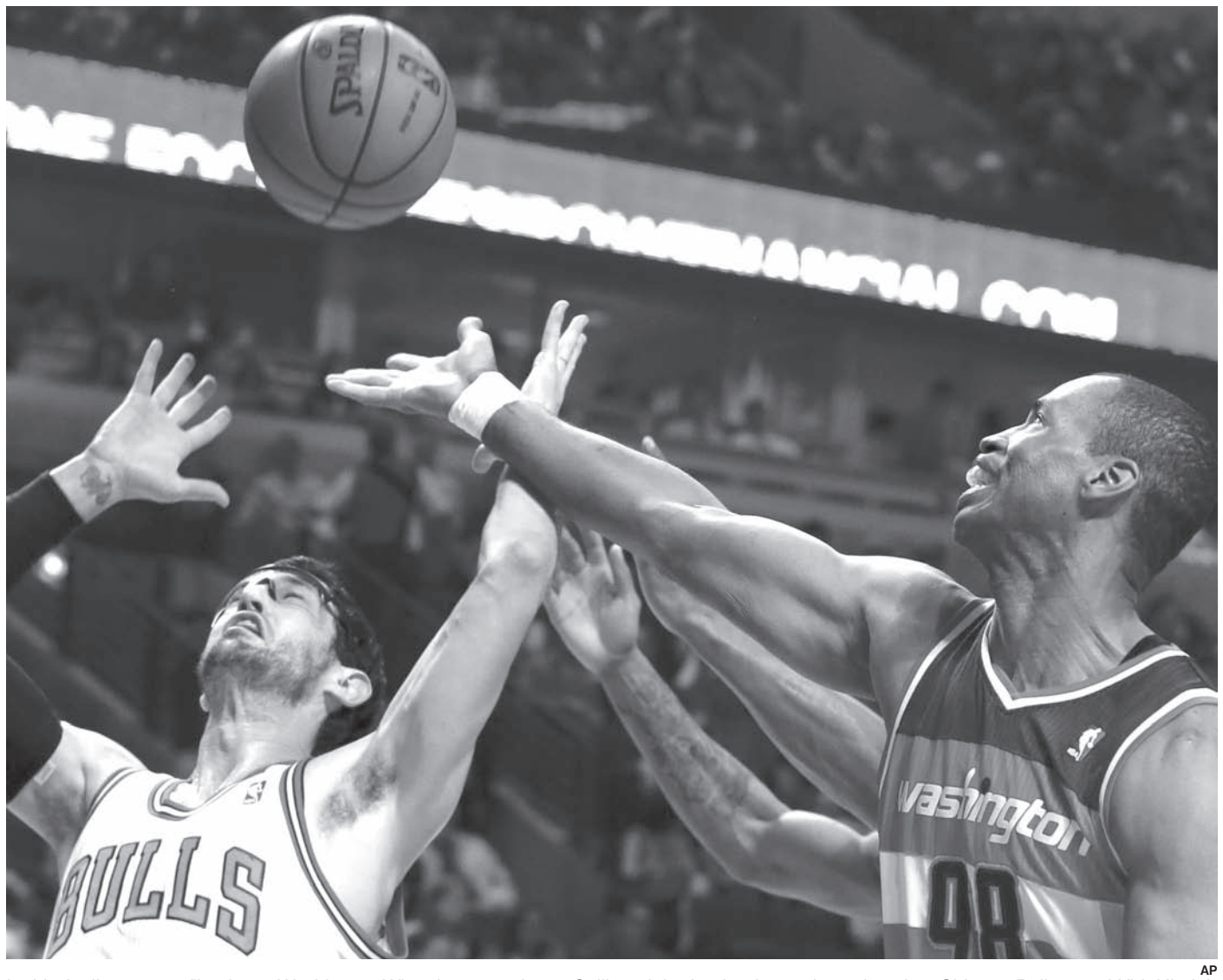
Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant tweeted that he was proud of Collins, writing: "Don't suffocate who u r because of the ignorance of others," followed by the words "courage" and "support."

"We've got to get rid of the shame. That's the main thing. And Jason's going to help that. He's going to help give people courage to come out," said Billie Jean King, a member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame who confirmed she was gay after being outed in the early 1980s.

"I guarantee you he's going to feel much lighter, much freer. The truth does set you free, there's no question. It doesn't mean it's easy. But it sets you free," King said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

The Wizards, whose season ended April 17, issued a statement from President Ernie Grunfeld: "We are extremely proud of Jason and support his decision to live his life proudly and openly. He has been a leader on and off the court and an outstanding teammate throughout his NBA career. Those qualities will continue to serve him both as a player and as a positive role model for others of all sexual orientation."

Collins' coach with the Celtics, Doc Rivers, drew a comparison between Monday's announcement and Jackie Robinson's role when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball.



AP

In this April 17, 2013 file photo, Washington Wizards center Jason Collins, right, battles for a rebound against Chicago Bulls guard Kirk Hinrich during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago.

"I am extremely happy and proud of Jason Collins. He's a pro's pro. He is the consummate professional and he is one of my favorite `team' players I have ever coached," Rivers said. "If you have learned anything from Jackie Robinson, it is that teammates are always the first to accept. It will be society who has to learn tolerance."

Collins says he quietly made a statement for gay rights even while keeping his sexual orientation a secret. He wore No. 98 with the Celtics and Wizards—1998 was year that Matthew Shepard, a gay college student in Wyoming, was killed, and the Trevor Project, a suicide prevention organization, was founded.

According to the General Social Survey, the public has grown increasingly accepting of gay relationships since the late 1980s. That survey found in 1987 that 76 percent of Americans thought sexual relations between adults of the same sex was morally wrong. That fell to 43 percent by 2012.

"I'm glad I'm coming out in 2013 rather than 2003. The climate has shifted; public opinion has shifted," Collins writes. "And yet we still have so much farther to go. Everyone is terrified of the unknown, but most of us don't want to return to a time when minorities were openly discriminated against."

While some gay athletes have talked in the past about concerns that coming out would hurt their earning potential, 12-time Grand Slam singles champion King said she thinks Collins' openness could have the opposite effect.

"I have a feeling he's got a whole new career," King said. "I have a feeling he's going to make more in endorsements than he's ever made in his life."

Sports equipment maker Nike released a statement Monday saying: "We admire Jason's courage and are proud that he is a Nike athlete. Nike believes in a level playing field where an athlete's sexual orientation is not a consideration."

On Monday evening, hours after his story appeared on the web, Collins wrote on Twitter: "All the support I have received today is truly inspirational. I knew that I was choosing the road less traveled but I'm not walking it alone."

Momentum has been building toward this sort of announcement from a pro athlete in a top league in the United States. NFL players Brendan Ayanbadejo and Chris Kluwe were outspoken in support of state gay-marriage amendments during last year's elections. Obama spoke about his support for gay marriage during his re-election campaign.

The topic made waves during Super Bowl week when one player, San Francisco 49ers cornerback Chris Culliver, said he wouldn't welcome a gay member of his team. At the time, Ayanbadejo estimated that at least half of the NFL's players would agree with what Culliver said, at least privately.

Scott Fujita, who recently retired after an 11-year NFL career, said: "I'm pleased to see such an overwhelmingly positive reaction to this news, because it just shows that we're becoming more accepting every day. But more than anything else, I'm happy for Jason. I'm not a gay, closeted athlete, so I can't pretend to know what that must have felt like for him. But I imagine this is freeing for him, and hopefully he's encouraged by the millions of people who are voicing their support. ... It's not a reaction to some rumor and it's not some unwanted outing. It's his message, and it was delivered under his control and on his terms."

On Monday, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell sent a memo to teams reiterating the league's anti-discrimination policy about sexuality. It includes a section on questions teams cannot ask prospective draft picks and free agents. After the NFL combine in February, three players said officials posed questions about sexual orientation.

Earlier this month, the NHL and its players' union partnered with an advocacy organization fighting homophobia in sports, and Commissioner Gary Bettman said the You Can Play Project underlines that "the official policy of the NHL is one of inclusion on the ice, in our locker rooms and in the stands."

"I would say the NHL has been a force to kind of obviously embrace and encourage. ... What (Collins) did, I think it's definitely (good) for basketball, and the same for hockey, too. It's going to be encouraging for more guys to step up and just be open about themselves," Washington Capitals forward Joel Ward said.

Living in the nation's capital last month while the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments about same-sex marriage had an effect on Collins, who says "the strain of hiding my sexuality became almost unbearable" at that time.

"Less than three miles from my apartment, nine jurists argued about my happiness and my future. Here was my chance to be heard, and I couldn't say a thing," he writes. "I didn't want to answer questions and draw attention to myself."

Rockets survive with 105-103 win over OKC

HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Rockets finally found a way to close out a game in their playoff series with the Oklahoma City Thunder.

And it allowed them to escape playoff elimination with a 105-103 win over the Thunder on Monday night.

Chandler Parsons scored 27 points and Patrick Beverley added 16 points with point guard Jeremy Lin out with a bruised chest muscle. Houston avoided a four-game sweep in the best-of-seven series.

The Rockets led in the fourth quarter of each of the last two games only to end up losing.

"We felt the pain and frustration from the last two losses ... and we didn't want that to happen for the third straight time," Parsons said.

It almost did.

Kevin Durant scored five quick points to cut the Rockets' lead to two. James Harden missed two shots for Houston after that and the Thunder had a last chance.

Reggie Jackson missed a jump shot and Serge Ibaka grabbed the rebound, but missed a layup at the buzzer.

A stunned Ibaka fell to the court after the miss and covered his face with his hands.

Durant scored 38 points in Oklahoma City's second game without injured All-Star guard Russell Westbrook.

The victory kept Houston from being swept in the playoffs for the first time since 1996. Game 5 is Wednesday in Oklahoma City.

"Getting this first win gives us confidence going back to Oklahoma City, and anything can happen," Harden said.

Rockets coach Kevin McHale was proud of his young team's work in getting its first playoff victory.

"That was a gutsy win," McHale said. "We're not going to lie down. The one constant has been their willingness to scrap and fight. We kept on fighting."

Hawks 102, Pacers 91

In Atlanta, Josh Smith scored 29 points as the Atlanta Hawks built a 17-point lead at halftime, then withstood an Indiana comeback over the final two quarters to level its first round playoff series with a victory in Game 4.

After struggling much of the second half, Smith made every big play down the stretch. He swished a rare 3-pointer, came up with an offensive rebound to set up a 3 by Kyle Korver, then finished off a fast break with a right-handed dunk.

Paul George scored 18 of his 21 points in the second half as the Pacers made a game of it but couldn't come back from a 57-40 deficit at the break.

Tied at two wins apiece, the series returns to Indianapolis for Game 5 on Wednesday night.

Nets 110, Bulls 91

In New York, Brook Lopez had 28 points and 10 rebounds, and Deron Williams added 23 points and 10 assists as the Nets cut the Bulls' lead to 3-2 in their first-round playoff series.

Andray Blatche scored 10 of his 13 points in the fourth quarter and Gerald Wallace had consecutive baskets down the stretch as the Nets finally pulled away in a game they led most of the way, but never by too much.

Two days after rallying for a 142-134 triple-overtime victory, the Bulls were outscored 15-1 down the stretch and failed to set up a second-round series with Miami. Instead they will host Game 6 on Thursday.

Jimenez dazzles as Indians beat Royals, 9-0

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)—Ubaldo Jimenez pitched into the eighth inning, Ryan Raburn hit two home runs as the Cleveland Indians pounded the Kansas City Royals 9-0 on Monday night to split their four-game series.

Raburn hit a three-run shot in the fifth inning and a solo homer in the eighth. Raburn finished with four hits and Jason Kipnis also went deep to pace a suddenly potent Indians offense.

Not that all the offense was needed.

Jimenez (1-2) allowed only two walks and an infield single by Billy Butler over his first seven innings. Otherwise, he kept the Royals off balance in a dazzling start that brought back memories of the pitcher who once threw a no-hitter for the Colorado Rockies.

Meanwhile, Wade Davis (2-2) made a second straight miserable start for the Royals. The right-hander allowed eight runs and 12 hits and three walks in just 4 2-3 innings.

Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez throws during the fourth inning of a baseball game between the Kansas City Royals and Cleveland Indians, Monday, April 29, 2013, in Kansas City, Mo. AP

Astros 9, Yankees 1

In New York, Carlos Corporan homered among his four hits and drove in four runs, leading Houston to the victory.

In their first game in the Bronx as an AL team, the Astros peppered Andy Pettitte (3-2) for 10 hits and seven runs, both season highs for the left-hander. Brandon Barnes and Corporan had two-run doubles and Barnes added an RBI single and a double. Barnes and Corporan each set career highs for hits and RBIs.

Houston bounced back from a four-game sweep in Boston with an enthusiastic win over the Yankees, who had just taken four straight from Toronto.

The Astros had 17 hits in improving the AL's worst record to 8-18. Lucas Harrell (3-2) pitched 6 1-3 innings to get the victory.

Vernon Wells had an RBI single in the sixth for New York.

Tigers 4, Twins 3

In Detroit, Prince Fielder's towering three-run homer in the sixth inning put Detroit ahead, as the Tigers held on for their fourth straight win.

Detroit trailed 3-1 when Andy Dirks reached on a bunt single and Miguel Cabrera walked. Fielder hit the first pitch over the wall in left-center for an opposite-field homer. That part of the fence is about 405 feet from home plate.

Max Scherzer (3-0) allowed three runs and six hits in 7 1-3 innings. He struck out 10 without a walk. Drew Smyly finished the eighth and got the first two outs of the ninth, and Joaquin Benoit finished for his second save.

Mike Pelfrey (2-3) allowed four runs and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings. Josh Willingham went deep for Minnesota.

Braves 3, Nationals 2

In Atlanta, Andrelton Simmons hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the seventh inning, then made an eye-popping play to start the ninth as the Atlanta Braves beat the Washington Nationals and ended their four-game losing streak.

Atlanta beat the Nationals for the eighth straight time dating to last season. The Braves swept three games at Washington earlier this month.

Washington's Stephen Strasburg ended his career-worst streak of losses in four straight starts. He allowed two runs in six innings.

Nationals manager Davey Johnson said the pitcher has a little tightness in his right forearm and was seen by a doctor after his start. Johnson said the hard-throwing righty will be given medication. Strasburg, who is 1-4 with a 3.13 ERA, said he'll be able to make his next scheduled start.

Jordan Walden (1-0) struck out three in 1 2-3 hitless innings. Craig Kimbrel closed for his ninth save.

Tyler Clippard (1-1) took the loss.

Reds 2, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Mat Latos outpitched Adam Wainwright, extending his scoreless innings streak to 17, and Cincinnati got an RBI apiece from Joey Votto and Xavier Paul in a victory over St. Louis.

Aroldis Chapman worked a perfect ninth for his sixth save, finishing off the third road victory in 11 games for the Reds and handing St. Louis its third straight loss.

Yadier Molina had three of the Cardinals' seven hits, including an RBI double off Jonathan Broxton that produced their first run in 17 innings. St. Louis stranded 10 runners.

Wainwright (4-2) trailed just six pitches in. He walked two, one intentionally, after issuing just one free pass in 37 1-3 innings over his first five starts.

Latos (2-0) worked around five hits and three walks in his sixth quality start in as many outings this season. The Reds have scored just four runs in his last three appearances.

Brewers 10, Pirates 4

In Milwaukee, Brewers pitcher Yovani Gallardo hit one of five home runs for Milwaukee, which went back-to-back twice against Pittsburgh.

Gallardo (3-1) also tossed three-hit ball over seven innings, retiring his final 13 batters while improving to 10-2 against Pittsburgh. He and Norichika Aoki hit consecutive homers in the fourth before Carlos Gomez and Yuniesky Betancourt repeated the feat in the fifth.

Jean Segura also connected for the Brewers, who added three triples and matched a season high for runs. They hit back-to-back homers twice in a game for the first time since 2005.

Milwaukee is 45-7 against the Pirates at Miller Park since 2007, the best record by any team against a division opponent during that stretch.

Pirates starter Wandy Rodriquez (2-1) walked four in a five-run first. Rodriguez, who entered with a 1.66 ERA, had walked three batters in his first four starts this season.

Cubs 5, Padres 3

In Chicago, Darwin Barney and Cody Ransom each drove in two runs as Chicago defeated San Diego.

Barney hit a pair of RBI doubles and Ransom went 2 for 4 with a home run against the team that let him go this month. Both players also made nice defensive plays in the seventh inning with runners in scoring position to preserve the lead.

Scott Hairston also homered for the Cubs.

Kevin Gregg got the final out of the eighth with runners on second and third and worked a perfect ninth for his fourth save. After a 5-13 start to the season, the Cubs have won five of seven.

Michael Bowden (1-1) got the win in relief of Jeff Samardzija, who struck out eight in five innings.

Giants 6, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Brandon Belt hit a two-run single in the eighth inning, helping San Francisco beat Arizona to end a five-game losing streak.

Belt also had a solo homer in the second against Ian Kennedy. The first baseman broke a 4-all tie in the eighth after Brad Ziegler (1-1) gave up a leadoff double to Nick Noonan and walked two.

Marco Scutaro had three hits and scored two runs for the World Series champions. Jean Machi (1-0) pitched a perfect seventh for his first major league win and Sergio Romo worked the ninth for his ninth save.

The Diamondbacks scored all four of their runs in the fourth inning on homers off Matt Cain.

Marlins 4, Mets 3, 15 innings

In Miami, Nick Green hit a game-winning sacrifice fly and Miami rallied for two runs in the 15th inning to hand New York its fifth consecutive loss.

Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton limped out of the game in the 10th inning with a strained right hamstring and was placed on the 15-day disabled list after the game.

Miami trailed 3-2 when Greg Dobbs singled with one out in the 15th against Shaun Marcum (0-2), a starter working out of the bullpen after the Mets ran out of relievers. Justin Ruggiano walked and Rob Brantly hit an RBI single to right.

Green followed with a fly ball to left field, and Ruggiano scored easily. Green also tied the game with a sac fly in the ninth against Mets closer Bobby Parnell, preventing Matt Harvey from improving to 5-0.

The Mets went 1 for 18 with runners in scoring position. The lone hit was Ruben Tejada's infield single to score the tiebreaking run with two outs in the 15th. New York's other runs were driven in by John Buck, who tied a team record with his ninth home run in April.

The Marlins grounded into five double plays. Jon Rauch (1-2) gave up one run in three innings.

Rockies 12, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Nolan Arenado hit his first major league home run, and Wilin Rosario and Dexter Fowler also homered for the Rockies.

Arenado, one of the Rockies' top prospects playing in his second big league game, had his first three hits. His two-run homer in the fourth made it 12-0.

Tyler Chatwood (1-0) shut out the Dodgers over six innings, striking out five with no walks. He also had three hits and two RBIs.

Dodgers starter Ted Lilly (0-1) was finished after three innings, allowing five runs (four earned) and eight hits. Josh Wall fared even worse, giving up seven runs and eight hits in two innings. The Dodgers used five relievers, including utility infielder Skip Schumaker, who pitched a scoreless ninth inning.

Jerry Hairston Jr. hit a two-run homer for the Dodgers.

Horschel captures first PGA win at Zurich Classic

AVONDALE, Louisiana (AP)—Billy Horschel shot an 8-under 64 in the final round of the Zurich Classic, maintaining his composure through two weather delays for his first-career PGA Tour victory Sunday.

Kyle Stanley shot a 5-under 67 to finish third, while Chinese 14-year-old amateur Guan Tianlang finished 71st after making his second cut in two PGA events, the first coming famously at the Masters.

Horschel sealed the win with a 27-foot birdie putt on 18, after which he pumped his arms and screamed in triumph, before sinking into a crouch and briefly pulling his cap over his face as the crowd roared.

Although Horschel had never won on the Tour, he had been playing the best golf of his young career lately, with three top 10 finishes in his past three tournaments—tying for second in Houston, tying for third in San Antonio and tying for ninth in Hilton Head Island, S.C., a week ago.

He has also made a PGA Tour-leading 23 straight cuts, and had already earned $1.3 million this year. Now he has nearly doubled that, thanks to a final round which tied a single-round course record that has been matched several times, including by Rickey Barnes in Thursday's first round.

Horschel began the day at 12-under, two shots behind third-round Glover. He began to make his move up the leaderboard with his first birdie on the fifth hole.

His string of six straight birdies ran from seventh through 12th holes move him to 7-under on the round and 19-under for the tournament.

On the par-5 seventh hole, Horschel chipped from about 89 feet to within 2 feet to set up his first birdie putt. He made a 9-foot birdie putt on eight and then hit a 191-yard tee shot about 4 feet from the pin to set up a birdie on the par-3 ninth.

He made a birdie putts from 13Ω feet (4 meters) on 10, from 6 feet (2 meters) on 11 and 15 1/2 feet (4.5 meters) on 12.

Horschel bogeyed 15th hole after twice hitting in the right rough to fall back into a tie with Points.

But Horschel then birdied 16 by hitting a 109-yard approach within 5 feet, putting him back at 19-under and restoring his one-shot lead.

Points, playing in the same crowd-pleasing group as Horschel, birdied the 10th through 13th holes to stay on Horschel's heels. However, he left a 98-yard approach shot 30 feet (9 meters) short and left on 16, where he lost the lead.

Glover, the 2009 U.S. Open winner who was looking for his first Tour victory in about two years, took a two-shot lead into the final round and opened with five pars—narrowly missing birdie when his put rimmed out on the first hole. He was about to line up a birdie putt from 27 feet when a horn sounded, signaling nearby lightning. Play was halted immediately and a downpour ensued shortly after, causing a 2-hour, 54-minute delay.

Glover two-putted for par when play resumed, then struggled on the seventh hole, hitting his drive to an uphill lie in the rough on the edge of a pot bunker. That forced him to lay up, and he chipped over the green and wound up with a bogey on a hole that many players birdied or eagled.

That dropped him out of the lead for good, and he wound up finishing tied for fourth with Bobby Gates, five shots off the lead.

Gay athletes have come out while active or retired

By STEPHEN WILSON
AP SPORTS WRITER

Even before Jason Collins, plenty of other athletes around the world have come out as gay, either while still active or in retirement.

From Martina Navratilova to Greg Louganis to Sheryl Swoopes, men and women from a variety of sports have openly acknowledged their sexuality, though many others are believed to still be reluctant to come forward.

Collins, a 34-year-old NBA veteran, became the first active player in the four major American professional sports to come out as gay, writing a first-person account posted on Sports Illustrated's website Monday. Collins has played for six teams in 12 seasons, including this past season with the Washington Wizards, and is now a free agent.

"It is hugely powerful when any individual in the sports world, wherever they come from in the world, feels able to come out," said Ruth Hunt, deputy chief executive of the British gay rights organization Stonewall. "The fact that this is a current player adds to the strength of his statement."

Previously, some pro sports athletes waited until after quitting to say they were gay, including former NBA player John Amaechi and former NFL running back Dave Kopay. English soccer player Justin Fashanu committed suicide in 1998, eight years after coming out during his playing career.

Amaechi, a center who played five seasons with four teams, became the first NBA player to publicly come out in 2007, three years after the Englishman's playing career was over. He said Collins spoke with him before deciding to come out and called his decision "groundbreaking" and one that could encourage other gay athletes to follow suit.

"I'm getting tons of messages right now from people talking to me about him, about what he's done," Amaechi told The Associated Press. "I've spoken to a couple of college athletes in the States and a couple of high school athletes who are very good who have been immensely buoyed by this news.

"They feel a weight lifted off them even if they aren't out and they aren't going to come out at this point."

Sports leagues in Britain and elsewhere in Europe have been trying to combat anti-gay bias. But the taboo remains particularly strong in soccer, where there are no openly gay players in Europe's top leagues. Homophobic chants still occur at some games.

"Football is not going to change," Amaechi said. "If it wanted to change it would change. It has the resources to do so. It doesn't want to change."

Amaechi said he has been in touch with soccer players, including in the English Premier League, who are gay but are not ready to go public.

"Many of them are out already," he said. "They are out in the way that most people are out in that people they love and that people who care about them know that they are gay. But random strangers don't know that they are gay."

Fashanu remains the only top-level British soccer player to have come out publicly, acknowledging he was gay in 1990. The former Nottingham Forest and Norwich City striker was found hanged in a London garage at age 37.

According to an inquest, Fashanu left a note saying, because he was gay, he feared he wouldn't get a fair trial in the United States on sexual assault charges. Maryland police were seeking him on charges that he sexually assaulted a 17-year-old boy after a party at his apartment.

Robbie Rogers, a former U.S. national team player who played for Leeds in England's second-tier division last season, went public in February that he was gay, saying on his personal website that "I realized I could only truly enjoy my life once I was honest." He also said he was retiring from the sport.

Anti-gay sentiment in soccer has been expressed in different ways.

Last year, Italy forward Antonio Cassano said he hoped there were no homosexual players on the national team and used a derogatory word to describe gays. Fans of two-time defending Russian champion Zenit St. Petersburg signed a petition saying gay players were "unworthy of our great city." Marcello Lippi, Italy's World Cup winning manager, caused a stir in 2009 when he said he had never come across a gay player and would advise gay players to stay in the closet.

"The NBA is light years ahead of football, there is no doubt about that," Amaechi said.

In the U.S., Kopay, who played for five NFL teams over 10 years, was the first pro athlete to acknowledge his homosexuality publicly when he came out in 1977 after retiring, and wrote a book about it.

Four-time diving gold medalist Louganis revealed he was gay in 1994, a year before announcing he was also HIV-positive.

Swoopes, a WNBA star and three-time Olympic gold medalist, disclosed in 2005 that she was gay.

In tennis, women's greats Navratilova and Billie Jean King came out about their sexuality. Former French player Amelie Mauresmo also spoke about her sexual orientation.

U.S. soccer star Megan Rapinoe came out before she played in last year's London Olympics. WNBA star Seimone Augustus and the league's No. 1 draft pick, Brittney Griner, are some of the more recent female athletes to follow suit.

Glenn Burke, an outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Oakland A's in the 1970s, and Billy Bean, a utility player in the 1980s and 1990s, disclosed they were gay after retiring. Burke died of complications due to AIDS in 1995.

Gareth Thomas, a Welsh rugby star, attracted widespread media attention in 2009 when he announced he was gay; he played until he retired in 2011.

"I was like a ticking bomb. I thought I could suppress it, keep it locked away in some dark corner of myself, but I couldn't. It was who I was, and I just couldn't ignore it any more. I'd been through every emotion under the sun trying to deal with this," Thomas said in a recent documentary broadcast on British television.

Orlando Cruz of Puerto Rico came out in October as pro boxing's first openly gay fighter, saying, "I don't want to hide any of my identities. I want people to look at me for the human being I am."

Canadian swimmer Mark Tewksbury came out as gay six years after winning a gold medal in the backstroke at the 1992 Barcelona Games. Former Olympic skiing gold medalist Anja Paerson of Sweden announced last year after her retirement that she was in a long-term relationship with a woman. Australian diver Matthew Mitcham came out as gay before he won the men's 10-meter platform gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

VILLANUEVA

From Page 28

The semis victory last Sunday was only Ackerman's first, as he drew a bye in the first round, while Ramsey advanced after topping Troy Young last Saturday, 6-0, 6-1. The second-ranked Villanueva played in the opening round and blanked Seok Jun Yun, 6-0, 6-0, to arrange a semis tiff against Ren, who barged into the next round after a 6-3, 6-3 win over Luther Lizama.

While familiar faces are in the boys U15 finale, a surprise finalist emerged in the boys U18 division, as Tommy Choi pulled off an upset over top-ranked Rafael Jones, 6-3, 7-5. Choi managed to sweep Jones last Sunday after coming off a tough three-set win over Seiya Eda last Saturday, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

Choi's finals' foe is Amami Sakano, who is looking to clinch the championship this time after bowing to Jones in last month's PIC tournament. Sakano marched into the finals after eking out a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (10-8) victory over the returning Jake Lee. Lee missed tennis action for a few months and after showing some rust in the first set, losing to Daniel Park, 5-7, he went on to win the last two sets, 6-2, 6-2.

The boys U10 is also at its finals stage with Gang Min Kim and Eugene Park getting the two championship slots. Kim won over Daniel Kang in the quarterfinals, 6-0, and then beat Rintaro Miyawaki in the semis, 6-4, to take the first finals berth. Park also gained two victories to get into the finals, as he prevailed over Jin Min Woo, 6-0, and Sean Lee, 6-3.

In the boys U12 singles, which drew the most participants with 12, four players are still left standing after last weekend's games. Top-ranked Robbie Schorr, who won last month, boosted his chances for a second straight U12 title after thwarting Haruya Eda in the quarterfinals, 6-3, 6-3. Schorr's semis foe in the upper half of the draw is Steven Goodwin, who pulled off a 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 win over Ken Song.

In the lower half of the draw, it will be Tony Kim versus Vincent Tudela. Kim barged into the semis after a 6-0, 6-2 triumph over Michael Jones, while Tudela also swept Tony Atalig, 6-3, 6-2, in the other quarterfinals tiff.

BREWERS

From Page 28

just one win ahead of defending champions Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees. The Yankees are scheduled to play their last game in the regular season tonight against the D-9ers (1-10) and a win would put them in a tie for first place with the Brewers. In case of a deadlock, the Brewers and the Yankees will play in a tiebreak game this Friday with the winner taking the pennant and the top seed in the playoffs.

The Brewers seemed to have lost their chances for the pennant, as they fell behind majority of the game before they forced a standoff at the top of the eighth inning to set up the come-from-behind win. The Brewers got two runs to even up the count at 10-all, with Manny Sablan making an RBI single and Juan Iguel scoring the other run off a Fielders' error.

Then at the bottom of the eighth, the Fielders strategically went for bunts to move runners into bases and were a bit successful, as they had runners on first and second base. However, Jose Palacios was caught stealing third and Nate Guerrero was beaten to first for the second out and Brewers catcher Manny Sablan caught a fly ball from Ricardo Dela Cruz to foil the Fielder's bid and kept the match in a deadlock, with one full inning to go.

Scalien led off for the Brewers at the top of the last inning and made a triple to right field. Then it was the Brewers' turn to bunt with Ton Guerrero hitting the ball for a short shot and Scaliem sprinting to home before the batter was beaten to first. The Brewers failed to add more runs after that, as they were called for two fly outs, giving the Fielders a chance to steal the win at the bottom of the ninth.

Mendiola singled for the Brewers in the last inning, but was caught stealing second base, while Jordan Pangelian was beaten to first on a 5-3 putout play for the second sound. Poland Masaharu was next at bat and was already called for two balls and two strikes when he opted not to swing against Cepeda's third strike. Catcher Manny Sablan then picked up the ball and threw to first for the last out to complete the Brewers' come-from-behind win.

The Fielders dropped their last two games in the regular season, as they failed to score in the last five innings against the Brewers after a promising 10-4 advantage at the bottom of the fourth inning. With their back-to-back losses, the Fielders, who bowed to the Yankees last Friday, will be seeded third in the semis and will square off against the loser in the battle for the pennant between the Yankees and the Brewers. The pennant winner will be paired against the D-9ers in the other best-of-three semis series. The St. Michael Angels completed the field, but were booted out of the competition after forfeiting two games.

SHARKS

From Page 28

the traditional role of the underdog against what will be a solid squad coming from Guam. In the previous four matchups, the CNMI Warriors, the previous CNMI team name for international competition, has come up short against a traditionally strong team to beat from Guam.

The game itself is an attempt by the CFLA to drum up interest not only in adult tackle football but to also work toward establishing a varsity and junior varsity program here on Saipan and revive the youth football League, which last saw play back in 2002.

The game itself will be the first tackle football game in equipment played in the CNMI since Dec. 3, 2005 when then Shell Lightning defeated Express Electronics Eagles 16-8 at the same CPA Airport Field.

The CFLA would like to thank the following sponsors in helping to make this game a reality. They are Marpac, Tan Holdings (TSL Foundation), Saipan Stevedore, CMS, IP&E, IT&E, and Saipan Apparel.

The first game the Sharks played was in Manila on Nov. 10, 2012, the first 11-man tackle football game to be played in Manila's history, against the Philippine Punishers, the national tackle football team of the Philippines.

With a roster of only 22 players, the CNMI was able to hold out against a fully loaded Philippine team with a roster size over 40 strong playing in front of fans at Ultra Sports Complex. The final score for that game was Philippine Punishers 13, CNMI Sharks 6. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	18	7	.720	_
New York	15	10	.600	3
Baltimore	15	11	.577	3 1/2
Tampa Bay	12	13	.480	6
Toronto	9	17	.346	9 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	14	10	.583	_
Kansas City	13	10	.565	1/2
Minnesota	11	11	.500	2
Cleveland	10	13	.435	3 1/2
Chicago	10	14	.417	4

West Division

Texas	16	9	.640	_
Oakland	15	12	.556	2
Seattle	12	16	.429	5 1/2
Los Angeles	9	16	.360	7
Houston	8	18	.308	8 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	16	9	.640	_
Washington	13	13	.500	3 1/2
Philadelphia	12	14	.462	4 1/2
New York	10	14	.417	5 1/2
Miami	7	19	.269	9 1/2

Central Division

Pittsburgh	15	11	.577	_
St. Louis	14	11	.560	1/2
Cincinnati	15	12	.556	1/2
Milwaukee	13	11	.542	1
Chicago	10	15	.400	4 1/2

West Division

Colorado	16	10	.615	_
Arizona	15	11	.577	1
San Francisco	14	12	.538	2
Los Angeles	12	13	.480	3 1/2
San Diego	9	16	.360	6 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dollar Days hands DFS second loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dollar Days had a rousing start in the 4th Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League, clobbering defending champion DFS, 94-74, last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Led by Ivan Devero, Dollar Days turned a close game into a rout in the fourth quarter, as DFS gassed out in the payoff period and clearly missed the contribution of new recruit Elmer Esdrelon. Esdrelon scored 5 early points in his debut with DFS before sustaining a pulled muscle with only two minutes gone by in the first period. He spent the rest of the night watching his teammates get blown out by Dollar Days' balanced roster.

Actually, despite Esdrelon's absence, DFS managed to take a 46-40 halftime lead and kept the driver's seat midway in the third period before Devero anchored Dollar Days' rally. With Devero's 9 points, Dollar Days went on to almost double up DFS in the third canto, 27-14, to grab the upper hand, 67-60.

Dollar Days kept it going, as it shuffled its men efficiently in the fourth canto for the breakaway. While Dollar Days had no problems getting contributions from its players, it was the other way around for DFS, which relied heavily on Dan Barcinas. DFS got 10 points from Barcinas in the fourth and its 4 other markers came from Junar Guiab and Jack Lizama with a field goal apiece. Barcinas' streak of baskets were made when the game was already decided at the halfway mark of the fourth after DFS went scoreless for about three minutes in the final canto.

Devero top-scored for Dollar Days with his 25 points, and his four other teammates also reached twin digits and three more combined for 18. Barcinas led three other DFS players in twin digits, but only 6 scored for the defending champion.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Dollar Days' Ivan Devero pulls up for a shot against DFS' Junar Guiab during the fourth quarter of their game in the Shirley's caging last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Mobil 99, Saipan Apparel 89

In the first game, Mobil won a shootout against Saipan Apparel. Mobil converted 12 triples against the nine of Saipan Apparel to win its first game of the season.

Zack Babauta's guns were blazing in the first game, as he connected on nine triples and sizzled with 34 points. Jun Estolas had only one triple, but still finished in twin digits with his 24 points, while Marvin Rabauliman chipped in 18 to form Mobil's potent trio.

Ed Diaz and Pete Lizama traded triples with Mobil and Saipan Apparel went to take a shaky 53-52 halftime lead before their foes took charge in the second half and secure the 10-point win.

Babauta and Fando Muleta nailed one triple each in the third, while Estolas scored 6 of Mobil's last 10 points in that canto to grab the lead, 72-67. Diaz, who scored 15 in the first half, was held to one free throw in the third, while Lizama was limited to 2 points, as Saipan Apparel canned only five field goals in that frame.

Diaz and Lizama tried to bring Saipan Apparel back in the game in the fourth, however Babauta was still on fire, drilling four more triples, while Estolas and Rabauliman put the finishing touches on Mobil's win. Rabauliman scored three of Mobil's last 5 points, while the 2 other markers came from Estolas' charities.

First Game

Mobil 99 – Babauta 34, Estolas 24, Rabauliman 18, Gamboa 10, Muleta 8, Gapor 5.

Saipan Apparel 89 – Diaz 28, Teregeyo 18, Lizama 15, Norita 12, Guerrero 4, Sablan 4, Crisostimo 2, Barrazo 2, Babauta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-27, 52-53, 72-67, 99-89.

Second Game

Dollar Days 94 – I. Devero 25, Bernardo 12, Abuel 12, Talania 11, Joyner 10, C. Devero 6, Pantaleon 6, Demapan 6, Sevilla 2, Laquian 2.

DFS 74 – Barcinas 26, Lizama 16, Guiab 15, Libuw 10, Esdrelon 5, Dikito 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-26, 40-46, 67-60, 94-74.

Adobo, Freestyle win in DLX caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Adobo and Freestyle showed poise in the homestretch to eke out close wins in their separate games in the 2013 DLX Invitational Basketball League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Adobo foiled Lyn's Heat's upset bid in the Bracket A match, 81-78, while Freestyle repulsed Yuichiro in the Bracket B pairing, 65-62. Adobo remained undefeated in its group and holds the top spot, while Lyn's Heat is at the bottom with a 0-3 slate. Freestyle notched back-to-back wins after losing its first game, while Yuichiro fell to a 1-2 record.

Jun Pantaleon came to Freestyle's rescue in the end, as he reported in the closing minutes of the game and scored 4 points, including two crucial free throws. Pantaleon played in the other league, missing the first three quarters of the match. His two charities and two more from Melvin Cadiang sealed the deal for Freestyle, which was behind at the end of the third canto, 45-50.

Celio Bisana and Ferdie Tobias then teamed up for Freestyle in the opening minutes of the fourth canto to keep Yuichiro within striking distance before Cadiang and Pantaleon took over in the end to steal the win.

Yuichiro lost the match after making only five field goals in the fourth quarter and getting only 3 points from Rodney Sacramento. Before the meltdown, Sacramento had already nailed 29 markers and his first 3 points were scored early in the fourth.

In the first game, the streaking Adobo avoided a collapse with Ichitaro Faisao and Shane Deleon Guerrero saving the day for the undefeated squad.

Lyn's Heat threatened Adobo in the third period, turning a 34-42 deficit to a 59-58 edge, as Manolo Manalo closed the frame with 6 straight points.

Seeing their team in danger, Deleon Guerrero, who had only 2 points in the third canto, scored 10 in the fourth, while Faisao added 9, including the two free throws that iced it for Adobo.

Lyn's Heat, which suffered a 78-79 sorry loss to Chinatown last weekend, fell short anew, as Manalo was held to 4 point in the fourth and he had no teammates scoring more than two field goals in the payoff canto.

First Game

Adobo 81 – Faisao 31, Deleon Guerrero 19, Vertudez 15, Palacios 6, Hemley 4, Dela Cruz 2.

Lyn's Heat 78 – Capalad 18, Manalo 17, Devero 16, Garcia 8, Mateo 7, Llagas 4, Vergara 2, Hernandez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 31-21, 41-34, 58-59, 81-78.

Second Game

Freestyle 65 – Bisana 20, Capalad 16, Tobias 16, Ong 7, Pantaleon 4, Gunnaco 1.

Yuichiro 62 – Sacramento 32, Metran 8, Gomez 7, Babauta 5, Enriquez 5, Cultura 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-15, 32-34, 50-45, 65-62.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Freestyle's Darren Kossen, left, and Max Gunnaco, double team Yuichiro's Sheen Metran during the first quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Saipan international fishing tourney set for July

The 29th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament will get underway on July 13 and 14 with participating boats launching from the designated launching points of Smiling Cove Marina and Garapan Fishing Base.

The organizing Saipan Fishermen's Association said entrance fee is $150 per boat for a captain and two crewmembers. Additional crewmen will be charged $25 each.

As always, the type of fishing is trolling and participants must have their boats inspected by the Division Boating Safety first before being allowed to join the derby. For appointment, call Boating Safety at 664-9180/1/2.

Launching times are 6am and 8am at Smiling Cove Marina and Garapan Fishing Base. After 8am, participating boats can only launch from the Smiling Cove Marina.

Emmanuel crewmembers and supporters pose with their giant 942-lb marlin caught last year during the Saipan Fishermen Association's 17th Annual International Fishing Derby.
SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Last year, the crew of the Emmanuel made headlines by reeling in a 942-lb blue marlin. By doing so, the anglers from Guam broke the 25-year record of the heaviest marlin caught in the tournament.

The crew of the Emmanuel, made up of captain Mike James and anglers Frank James, John Hattig, and George Arriola, took home $10,000 cash for the record-breaking monster marlin. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Villanueva, Ackerman arrange rematch

Dylan Ackerman, front, and Moris Villanueva wait for a serve from their doubles foes Thea Minor and Jake Lee during the first set of their game in the 2013 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis court. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Moris Villanueva and Dylan Ackerman swept their respective semis foes in the boys U15 singles division of the 2013 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships to set up a finals rematch this weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Ackerman downed Colin Ramsey, 6-2, 6-2, to notch the semis seat in the upper half of the lower draw, while Villanueva defeated Michael Ren in the lower draw semis, 6-2, 6-1. It will be Ackerman and Villanueva's second finals meeting in about a month, as they also collided in the same age group of last month's 13th Annual PIC Tennis Championships with the latter winning the title match, 6-2, 6-2.

See VILLANUEVA on Page 26

Brewers keep pennant bid alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tan Holdings Brewers pulled off an 11-10 win over the IP&E Fielders last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Field to stay in the hunt for the pennant in the 2013 Saipan Major League.

McGarett Scalien tripled at the top of the ninth inning and later reached home plate off a Ton Guerrero's sacrifice out for the game-winning run.

The game against the Fielders was the Brewers' last in the double-round robin regular season and the latter finished the elimination with a 10-2 record for temporary first place and

See BREWERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Tan Holdings Brewers' Clifton Silil gets ready to bat against the IP&E Fielders during the top of the eighth inning of their game in the SML last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

FOOTBALL BACK IN CNMI

Sharks take on Guam selection this Saturday

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Sharks players, seen here posing for a team shot, will take on a selection from Guam's Budweiser FootballLeague this coming Saturday, May 4, at the CPA Airport Field.

After a nearly eight-year hiatus, American tackle football will back in the Commonwealth when the CNMI Sharks take on a team from Guam's Budweiser Football League this coming Saturday, May 4, 1pm at the CPA Airport Field.

The CNMI Sharks is an adult tackle football team (18 years of age and above) representing the Commonwealth Football League Association (CFLA).

The game has been in the planning stages for some time and did see some scheduling changes, but the two respective leagues were able to iron out the current date to lock horns. This will be the second game for the CNMI Sharks.

The team from Guam will comprise of members of Guam's Budweiser League, a number of whom are notable football names down south and have been mentioned on several different all-star lists. The CNMI team is made up of guys who have signed up to be a part of the team, many of whom will be playing their first game this coming Saturday and a few hold-outs from the old CNMI league play.

This game is predicted to be another slugfest where the CNMI will find itself playing

See SHARKS on Page 26